

THE
L I F E

Of that GREAT STATESMAN

WILLIAM CECIL,
Lord BURGHLEY,
SECRETARY of STATE in the Reign of
King EDWARD the Sixth,

AND

LORD HIGH TREASURER of *England* in
the Reign of Queen ELIZABETH.

Publish'd from the Original Manuscript wrote soon
after his Lordship's Death; now in the Library of
the right honorable *Brownlow* Earl of *Exeter*.

To which is added,

His CHARACTER by the learned *Camden*,

AND AN

Extract of his last WILL and TESTAMENT.

WITH

MEMOIRS of the FAMILY of CECIL,

Faithfully collected from Records, Manuscripts, and other
Authorities.

By ARTHUR COLLINS, Esq;

L O N D O N,

Printed for ROBERT GOSLING at the *Mitre* and *Crown*
against *Fetter-Lane*; and THOMAS WOTTON, at the
Queen's Head and *Three Daggers* over against *St. Dun-*
stan's Church, both in *Fleetstreet*. MDCCXXXII.

THE LIFE

OF THE GREAT STATESMAN

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King EDWARD the Sixth

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LONDON.

Printed for Robert Gosling at the Golden and Crown
in St. Pauls Church-yard, and Thomas Warton, at the
sign of the Three Crowns over-against St. Dunstons
Church, in Fleet-street, in the Strand.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
BROWNLOW CECIL,
Earl of EXETER,
AND
Lord BURGHLEY.

MY LORD,

IF it justly belongs to any one to be number'd among the Patriots of their Countrey, the Lord *Burghley* had a deserv'd right, and undoubted title thereto; and his services ought to be gratefully remember'd by posterity.

What I now offer to your Lordship, will be a lasting testimony, not only

DEDICATION.

of the wisdom of that great Statesman, but also of his magnanimity, rare accomplishments, and other virtues, and may incite others to the pursuit of so laudable an example.

Queen *Elizabeth* of famous memory, an excellent judge of men and letters, knew the value of this able Minister, and often caused him to sit in her presence, and honoured him with several visits to comfort him in his sickness; and the deep sense she had of his abilities and services, is well express'd in the Preamble to her Patent creating him Lord *Burghley*. “ Being
“ moved thereto by certain experience
“ of his circumspection, courage, prudence, dexterity, probity of life,
“ foresight, care, and faithfulness;
“ and in consideration not only of his
“ continual services in the time of her
“ predecessors, Kings of *England*, but
“ also

DEDICATION.

“ also of the faithful and acceptable
“ duty he had from the very begin-
“ ning of her reign always perform’d,
“ and continued still to perform, not
“ only in the great and weighty af-
“ fairs of the Council-Board, but in the
“ general administration of the State.

These shining qualities descended to his sons ; his eldest, the Earl of *Exeter*, early distinguish’d himself in the service of his Countrey, giving proofs of his valour on several occasions, and was also eminent in Council. And his youngest son, the Earl of *Salisbury*, was the most consummate Statesman of the age.

Your Lordship’s Grandfather, *John* Earl of *Exeter*, was also as conspicuous for his virtues and merits : but knowing my own inabilities, and lest I should offend in attempting to describe

DEDICATION.

describe those great accomplishments,
love of learning, and learned men,
and other acts of honour and virtue,
wherein you imitate your great an-
cestors, I shall beg leave to subscribe
my self,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

most humble, and

most devoted servant,

Arthur Collins.

THE
PREFACE.

THE transmitting to posterity, the Acts of such who have deserved well of their countrey, having in all ages and nations been countenanced, I shall therefore only give an account of the authority of the manuscript now set forth.

The work I have for several years engaged in, of treating of those families that have been Barons of this kingdom, necessarily induced me to apply to our Nobility for such helps, as might illustrate the memory of their ancestors. And several Noblemen having favour'd me with the perusal of their family evidences, and being recommended to the Right Honourable the present Earl of Exeter, his Lordship out of just regard to the memory of his great Ancestor, was pleased to order the manuscript Life of the Lord Burghley to be communicated to me.

Which being very old and decayed, and only legible to such who are versed in ancient writings, it was with great satisfaction that I copied it literatim. And that it may not be lost to the world, I now offer it to the view of
A the

the publick. It fully appears to be wrote in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, soon after his Lordship's death, by one who was intimate with him, and an eye-witness of his actions for the last twenty-five years. It needs no comment to set it off; that truth and sincerity which shines through the whole, will, I don't doubt, have the same weight with the Readers as it had with me, and that they will be of opinion it's too valuable to be buried in oblivion.

The character given of his Lordship by the learned Camden is added, as also an extract of his last Will and Testament, which I copied out of the Prerogative-Office; the preamble thereto being very remarkable. And that his Lordship's descent may appear, I shall shew what I have met with from records and other authorities.



A N

A C C O U N T

O F T H E

F A M I L Y o f C E C I L .

THE Name of this Family has been, like others of long continuance, variously written, as *Sitfild*, *Sicelt*, *Seycil*, *Seifel*, *Cicil*, &c. ^a yet it's evident that tho' the Name was so differently spelled, the persons so wrote were of the same Lineage. It's ^a Camden's Remains in loco Sur-names, p. 140^a agreed by *Camden*, and other Genealogists, that *Robert Sitfild* ^b an assistant to *Robert Fitz-Hamon*, in the conquest of *Glamorganshire*, ^b Hist. of Wales, p. 124, 141, & 142. in the 4th year of the reign of King *William Rufus*, Anno 1091, was the Ancestor to this family. Which *Robert* was rewarded with lands by the said *Robert Fitz-Hamon*, for his services, and afterwards by ^c marriage had *Al-* ^c Barnes's Hist. Edward III. p. 75. *terennis* in that part of *Herefordshire* called *Ewyas Land*, with other lands in *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire*.

To whom succeeded his son and heir Sir *James Seifel*, Baron of *Beauport* (now called *Beaupere*) in *Glamorganshire*, ^d slain at the siege of *Wallingford* Castle in the 4th of King *Stephen*, ^d Barnes, ibid.

An Account of the

phen, leaving issue *John Seifel* his son and heir.

^e Ex Stem-
mate.

Which *John* was taken prisoner at the siege of *Lincoln* in the ninth of King *Stephen*, and paying for his ranfome 400 marks, was obliged to sell his lordship of *Beauport*, and all his lands in *Gloucestershire*. He had by *Maud* his wife, daughter of . . . *de Frenes*, *Eustace* his son and heir, who married *Eleanor* daughter of Sir *Walter Pembridge* K^t. and had issue Sir *Baldwin Seifel*, knighted by King *Henry II.* and slain at the siege of the Castle of *Cardiff*, his father then living.

^f Ex eodem.

This Sir *Baldwin* by his first wife, daughter of *Maurice de Brampton*, ^f had issue six sons, *Gerald*, *Eustace*, *Henry*, *John*, and *Walter*, as also two daughters, *Catherine* wife to *Hugh Mureduke*, and *Eleanor* to *Walter Wallis*. And by his second wife, *Margaret* daughter of Sir *Stephen Radnor* K^t. had issue, *Stephen*, *Roger*, *Hugh*, *David*, *Maud* a Nun, *Joan* wife to *John de Solers*, and *Anne* to *Owen ap Meredith*.

The eldest son *Gerald Seiffel*, married *Mabel* daughter of Sir *William Moigne* K^t. and had issue *Robert*, *Owen* a Monk in the Abbey of *Dore* in *Herefordshire*, *Catherine* wife of Sir *Griffin ap Yereford* K^t. secondly to *David ap Evan*, and thirdly to *Geffery* son of Sir *Walter Bret* K^t. *Anne* wife to *Robert* son of *Richard*

Family of CECIL.

Richard Bromwich, *Ellen* wife to *John* son of *Sir Richard Abraball K^t*.

He was succeeded by *Robert Seiscel*, who married *Alice* daughter of *Sir Robert de Tregoze K^t*. and had issue, *James*, *Gerald*, *Thomas*, *Baldwin*, *Margaret*, and *Elizabeth*.

James Cecill eldest son of *Robert*, had to wife *Issabel* daughter of *Sir John Knowle K^t*. by whom he had issue, *James* who died young, *Gerard*, *Robert*, *John*, *Alice* wife to *Walter Monington*, *Grace* married to *Roger* son of *William Blunt*, *Eleanor* wife to *Thomas Paine*, *Margery* wedded to *Morgan ap Meredith*, and *Cecilie* wife to *Howel ap Blethin*, secondly to *Sir Hugh Bruge K^t*.

Gerard Cecill eldest son, by his first wife *Margaret* daughter of *Stephen de la Bere*, had issue *John*. And by his second wife, *Bridget* widow of *Sir Simon Ward K^t*. had a son *James*. Also by his third wife . . . daughter of *Martin Hopton*, had issue, *Martin*, *Henry*, *David*, and *Jane*. And lastly by his fourth wife, *Joan* daughter of *Robert Emerton*, had issue, *Stigand Seiffel*, slain at the siege of *Strivelin* in *Scotland*.

John Cecill the eldest son by the first wife, married *Sibil* daughter of *Robert Ewyas*, and had issue *Sir John*, and *George Cecill*.

Which *Sir John Cecil*, or *Seyffel*, ^g being at the siege of *Berwick* in 7 *Ed. III.* 1333, there arose a great controversy ^h between him and

^g Barnes's
Hist. Ed-
ward III.
p. 75.
^h Powel's
Hist. of
Wales, p.
147.
Sir

Sir *William Fakenham*, concerning a Banner of Arms, charg'd with this Coat, viz. a *Feild Barry, of ten Pieces, Argent and Azure, on six Escutcheons, three, two, and one, Sable, as many Lions Rampant of the first.* ⁱ Which Arms each challeng'd as their right, and offer'd to maintain the same by combat in their proper persons. But the King was pleas'd to forbid it, and ordering the heralds to decide the affair by law and justice, they solemnly adjudg'd the right of bearing those Arms to Sir *John Cecil*, as heir of blood, lineally descended from the body of *James Cecil Baron of Beauport*, slain at the siege of *Wallingford Castle* in the fourth of King *Stephen*. This Sir *John* married *Alice*, sister to Sir *Robert Baskerville*, and had issue *John* his son and heir, who died in his life time, having married *Joan* daughter of Sir *Richard Mannington* K^t. by whom he left *Thomas Ceissel* of *Alterennues* in *Herefordshire* K^t. who succeeded his grandfather Sir *John Ceissel*.

ⁱ Joh. Bofwel's Concord's of Armory, fol. 80.

^kChauncey's Hertfordshire, p. 308. Which *Thomas* ^k married *Margaret* daughter and heir of Sir *Gilbert Winston* Knt. and had issue *Richard* his son and heir, ^l who had to wife *Margaret* daughter of Sir *John Phillips* K^t. by whom he had *Philip Siceit* (as the name was then wrote) who ^m married *Maud* daughter and heir of *William-Philip Vaughan*, of *Tilliglaste*, by *Wenlian* his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir *Thomas Barry*, by *Elizabeth* his

^l Visit. de Com. Heref. not. g. A. 17. in Bibl. Harley.

^m Ex stemmatopenes præhon. Tho. Dom. Lovel per Camden.

his wife, daughter of *Richard Lord Talbot*. Which *Sir Thomas Barry* was son and heir of *Gerald de Barrye*, Lord of *Castle Scalt* in *Herefordshire*.

Which *Philip Sicelt*, by the said *Maud*, had issue *Philip* his son and heir, ⁿ and *David* ⁿ *Ibid.* *Sicelt*, ancestor to the present Earls of *Exeter*, and *Salisbury*.

Philip the eldest son, was father of *John Sycill* (as he wrote his name) of *Alterennes*, and of the ^o parish of *Walterston* in *Com. Heref.* ^{o Ex Registr. vocat Buck. qu. 16. in Cur. Prærog. Cant.} who by his last will and testament, bearing date the 21st June 1551. in 5 *Edw. VI.* orders his body to be buried in the parish church of *St. Peter's* in *Walterston*, and leaves to *Elizabeth Weynston* his wife, his mansion house of *Alterennes*, with the lands thereto belonging for life, and after her decease to *William* his son and heir, and his heirs for ever. And entails his other lands in *Herefordshire*, and *Monmouthshire*, on the said *William* his son, and in default of issue on *Thomas* his son, remainder to *Philip Sycill* his Son, remainder to *Anne* and *Alice* his daughters.

But I return to *David*, younger son of *Philip Sicelt* before mention'd. Which *David* having purchas'd a fair Estate in *Lincolnshire*, in 22 *H. VII.* ^{p Pat. 23. H. VII. p. 1.} he founded a Chantry in *St. George's Church* in *Stamford*; and in 3 *H. VIII.* was constituted ^{q Pat. 3 H. VIII. p. 2a} Water-baylif of *Wittlesey-mere* in *Com. Hunt.* as also keeper

Keeper of the swans there, and throughout all the waters and fens in *Huntingdon, Cambridge, Lincoln, and Northampton* shires, for the term of thirty years. Also, in 5 *H. VIII.*

† Ex MS.
quodam in
Recepto
Seacc.
† Pat. 8 H.
VIII. p. 2.

he was made † one of the King's Sergeants at Arms: And having this imployment at Court, obtained * for *Richard* his son and heir, the office of a Page of the Crown. Likewise in 8 *H. VIII.* he obtained a grant to himself and son, of the Keepership of *Clyff-Park*, in *Com. Northamp.* And in 15 *H. VIII.* (continuing still Sergeant at Arms) he was constituted

† Pat. 15 H.
VIII. p. 1.

Steward † of the King's Lordship of *Coly-Weston* in that County. In 23 *H. VIII.* on the death of Sir *William Spencer* K^t. he was constituted Sheriff of *Northamptonshire*, for the remaining part of that year; † and was also Sheriff the next ensuing year. And having † been Alderman of *Stamford* three times, departed this life in the year 1541, 32 *H. VIII.* as should seem by the probate of his last Will and Testament, which bears date that year.

† Fuller's
Worthies
in Com.
Northamp.
p. 299.
† Butcher's
Survey of
Stamford,
p. 43.

† Ex Regist.
Sper. qu. 3.
in Cur. Præ-
rog. Cant.

By which Testament, dated on the † feast of the Conversion of *St. Paul* 1535, being wrote *David Cyssell* of *Stamford* in the county of *Lincoln* Esq; he orders his Body to be buried in the parish church of *St. George* of *Stamford*, and that Sir *William Huddleston* sing for his soul and all christian souls, for the space of a year, in the said church of *St. George*. He bequeaths to *Jane* his wife, all his lands in



in *Stamford, Nassynton*, and elsewhere, for term of her life, and after her decease to *Richard* his son and heir, and to his heirs for ever. And to *Joan* his daughter, one half of his household-stuff at *Dowlsby*. He moreover bequeaths to *Richard* his eldest son, his best gown. To *Anthony Villers* his second best gown, his best doublet, and his velvet jacket. To *David* his son, his black gown of cloth lined with damask, a doublet of sattin streked, with a jacket and his green coats. And the fidue of his goods he bequeathed to *Richard Cyssel* his son *to the bonour of God, and for the health of his soul, after the most laudable manner that he can do or devise*; and ordeins him sole executor.

This *Richard* his eldest son, in 8 *H. VIII.* was ^y made one of the Pages of the Crown. ^{y Pat. 8 H. VIII. p. 2.} In 12 *H. VIII.* he ^z waited on the King at that famous interview with the King of *France* ^{z MS. Not. B. 5. in Bibl. Joh. Antis.} between *Calais* and *Guiesnes*; and in 22 *H. VIII.* being Groom of the Robes to that King, obtained ^a a grant of the office of Constable of *Warwick* Castle, then in the Crown. ^{a Pat. 22 H. VIII. p. 1.} In 27 *H. VIII.* being one of the Grooms of the Wardrobe, he had a grant of the office of Bailiff of the King's Water, ^b called *Wittlesey-Mere*, and the custody of the swans, and of those waters called *Great Crick*, and *Merys*, in the counties of *Cambridge*, *Lincoln*, *Huntington*, and *Northampton*, for term

B

of

^b Privat. Signill. 27 H. VIII.

of 30 years, after the expiration of the term granted to *David Cecyll* his father. In 31 ^{c Wright's Rutland-shire, p. 12.} *H. VIII.* he was ^c Sheriff of *Rutlandshire*. In 32 *H. VIII.* being wrote *Richard Cecyll* of *Burley* in the county of *Northampton* Esq; he ^{d Pat. 32 H. VIII. p. 7.} had a ^d grant to him, his heirs and assigns for ever, of the scite of *St. Michael's* priory near *Stamford*, and the church, and 299 acres of arable land, lying in the parish of *St. Martin's* in *Stamford*, in the county of *Northampton*. In 34 *H. VIII.* being then Yeoman ^{e Pat. 34 H. VIII. p. 7.} ^e of the Wardrobe, he was made Steward of the King's manors of *Nassington*, *Yarwell*, and *Upton*, in *Com. Northamp.* for life. In 36 *H. VIII.* he purchased ^{f Pat. 36 H. VIII. p. 28.} ^f the manor of *Esyngdon*, in *Com. Rutl.* then also in the Crown, as parcel of the Earl of *Warwick's* lands. In 37 *H. VIII.* he surrendered his custody of *Warwick* Castle. And departing this life, 22 *March* 1553, was buried in *St. Martin's* Church in *Stamford*, leaving issue by *Jane* his wife, daughter and heir to *William Hec-kington* of *Bourn* in *Com. Linc.* Esq; *William* his son and heir, and three daughters, *Margaret* married to *Roger Cave* of *Stamford* in *Com. Northam.* Esq; *Elizabeth* to *Robert Wingfield* of *Upton* in the same county Esq; and secondly to *Hugh Allington* Esq; and *Anne* to *John White* of *Tuxford* in *Com. Nott.* Esq;

Which

Which *William* his son and heir, being (as Sir *William Dugdale* writes) “ a person of ^{Baronage of Engl. Vol. II. p. 405.} great learning, singular judgment, admirable moderation, and comely gravity, came to be the chiefeſt Statesman of the age wherein he lived, unto whose prudence in council much is attributed, for the blessing then enjoyed, by that prosperous and happy government, throughout the long reign of *Queen Elizabeth* of famous memory.” All which is more particularly manifested in his Life.



THE
LIFE
OF
WILLIAM CECIL
Lord BURGHLEY.

TO write the vertuous lives of worthie Men, hath in all ages and contries byn usual and commendable, both for a memorable praise of their actions and good examples for others to imytate, wherein some for feare, others in flattery have often written many notable Things of most unworthy men; but myself, respecting only truth am the bolder to write this true declaration of the most memorable life, and happie death of the right honorable, wise, and famous Counsellor *William* Lord *Burghley*, late Lord High Treasurer of *England*, a man justly worthy and. worthely just, in his religion truly zelous, in his gravitie and integritie most commendable, to his Prince loyal, to his Contrie pretious, kind to his frendes, and yeldinge to his
ennemys,

ennemys, charitable to all, envieing no man's fortune, nor proud of his owne, alwaies pittifull to the poor man's petition, and never partial to the riche, ever ready to doe good against evill, and a man rather to be admired for his wisdome, then followed in his flowinge vertues, which are ever most valuable, where they are most plentiful; whose fame in all nations so long and lardgly divulged can never die, though envy of his foes, or negligence of his frends, maie in a sort obscure or seme to forget the same; who being so famous in other contries raised only by reports, it weare a shame for his contrie men and frendes, and a wronge to himself, to bury his vertues in oblivion, in his owne native contrie, which thes forty yeres together hath in experience tasted the fruites of his wisdome, travaile and truth, in so long tyme of peace and plenty, as hath seldome bene sene, or never enjoyed; which though some maie saie came not by his industrie, but by Godes goodnes; yet may I justlie aunswer that next to Godes goodnes, his skilfull guydinge the helme as a perfect pilate, and his painefull carefull service as a wise counsellor, have byn a principall and effectuall cause of contynuaunce thereof, as all or most good Englishmen doe and cannot but confesse, thoug some of the worst and ignorant sort out of envy (which never saith truth) with shame maie deny it. I have therefore without

The Life of WILLIAM CECILL

out partiallyty to him, or arrogancy to myselfe, in the duty of a true Englishman presumed (as an eye witnes of his Life and Actions twenty five yeres together) to set downe this testimony of the truth, which falsewood or envy can neither suppressse nor supplant, against so manie proofes as I am able to produce, and as all the world can witnes, his comendable deedes approve, his whole course of lyving, and his godly, cristian dieing, doe also manifest to the world, if no man weare so thankful, or so charitable as to record the same, so worthely in right and justice due unto him. Wherein though in a rude simple phrase I shall blemish the excellent brightnes of his worthy deedes; yet have I chosen rather to note some fewe in plaine and simple truth, then to bury all in oblyvion, which I suppose maie either please his frends, or offend his foes, or at the least be covered by the honest and wise with some courteous excuse or indifferent interpretation, the best sort will beleve the truth, the worst can but envye his praises, because they cannot followe his vertues.

His Birth.

William Lord of *Burghley*, Knight of the Order of the Garter, Lord High Treasurer of *England*, and Master of her Majesties Wards and Liveries, was born at *Boorn* in the Countie of *Lincoln*, the 13th daie of *Septembre* 1521. His father Mr. *Rychard Cecill* of *Burghley* in the County of *Northampton* Esquire, was principall

principall Officer of the Robes in the tyme of King *Henry* the eight, a place though nowe esteemed but meane, yet at that tyme of good account, for then the King did ordinarily make himself ready in the Robes; where Mr. *Cecill* being cheif, and a wise discret man was in greate favoure with the Kinge, who gave him both countenaunce and lyving, as appeared by the port Mr. *Cecill* lived in, not now usuall by officers in that place, for it was then no small preferment or reputation in the world, to have the favourable countenaunce of so bountifull magnificent a Prince as he was.

This Mr. *Richard Cecill* was a Gentleman, He was a Gentleman by his father. descended from the *Cecills* of *Haulterennes* in *Wales*, a very auncient house, myself haveing seene many auncient authentique writings and evidences proving many lyneall descents, evene to himself, the copies whereof I have in my custody to shewe, and am assured fewe men in *England* can shewe more pregaunt and authentically proofes for derivation of his discent, then are extant for approving the truth of his pedegree, by manie severall evidences and records proving every discent; a thing not usuall to be seene. But if this weare not so, or that his said proofes failed, yet was he a Gentleman, for besides that his father was a Squire by his place, he was a Gentleman by his mother, He was a Gentleman by his mother. a goodly vertuous Gentlewoman who lived to the age of fourscore and five yeres,

her

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her name was *Jane Heckington* daughter and heire of [*William*] *Heckington* of [*Bourn*] in the County of [*Lincoln*] by whom came the inheritaunce of the Lordship of *Burghley* nowe the mansion of his Lordshipes Barony, and other landes to the value of twoe hundred pounds yerely. The said Mr. *Richard Cecill* had by his wife the said *Jane*, *William Cecill* Lord *Burghley*, Lord Treasurer of *England*, *Anne* married to *John White* Esquire, [*Margaret*] married to *Roger Cave* Esquire, and *Elizabeth* married to *John Wingfeld* Esquire [secondly to *Hugh Allington* Esquire.] His Lordship was first married to *Mary Cheeke* sister to Sir *John Cheeke* Knight, by whome he had *Thomas Cecill* now Lord *Burghley*. The second tyme he married *Mildred Cooke*, one of the daughters of Sir *Anthony Cooke* Knight, by whom he had *Robert Cecill* now her Majestis Principall Secretary, and Master of her Majesties Wards and Liveries, *Anne Cecill* married to *Edward* nowe Erle of *Oxford*, *Elizabeth Cecill* married to *William* the heyre of the Lord *Wentworth*, and three other Children who all died younge. But I will here leave the description of his fruitfull braunch to the heraulds, only observing but his birth and matches; his Lordship's grandfather Mr. *David Cecill* of *Stameford* was High Sherife of *Northamptonshire* twoe years together, viz. from *Michaelmas* 23^d to 24th, and

His Lord-
ship's
matches
and chil-
dren.

and secondly from 24th to 25th yere of *Henry* the eight, so as it maie be noted he was not meanelly borne, for then had not himselfe and his sister matched in so good sort as they did.

But to retorne to my purpose, his Lordship being in his infancie so pregnant in witt, and so desirous and apt to lerne as in expectation foretold his great future fortune, was vertuously brought up and taught at schoole at *Grantham* and at *Stamesford* in the Countie of *Lincoln*, and at the age of fourtene yeres, in *May* 27 *Hen. VIII.* he went to *Cambridge*, where he was Student in *St. John's Colledge*, being so diligent and painefull, as he hired the Bellinginger to call him up at foure of the clocke every morninge: With which watching, and contynuall sitting, there fell abundance of humors into his leggs, then very hardly cured, which was thought one of the original causes of his Gowt; one *Medcalf* then Master of that House, seing his dilligence and towardnes, wold often give him money to encourage him: He was so toward, studuous, and so earely capable, as he was reader of the *Sophistrie Lecture*, being but sixteen yeres old; and afterwards he read the *Greek Lecture* there, as a Gentleman for his exercise upon pleasure without pension, before he was nineteen yeres old, which he performed so lernedly as was beyond expectation of a Student of his tyme, or one of his yeres and birth, being not usuall to see a

His education.

He went to Cambridge at fourteen yeres of age.

Gentleman so lerned, or so painefull to performe that place; for at that tyme it was a rare thinge to have any perfection in the *Greeke* tongue. His diligent study was such, as beside his exquisite knowledg in the *Greeke*, he was not meanely seene in all other manner of lerning, hable judicially and lernedly to maintaine argument with the best lerned of treble his standing, in any manner of lerning or science, with extraordinary applause of his audiens, no lesse admiring his great lerning for so little tyme, then the excellency of his witt, and temper of speech, that he was as famous for a Scholar in *Cambridge*, as afterwards for a grave and great Counsellor.

He was Master of Art.

When he had proceeded Master of Art, and contynued at the Univerfity about fix yeres, and that his frendes thought his lerning there sufficient, unles he shold proceed Doctor, and professe some one study or science, as for his gredy desire of lerninge in short tyme he might; but that God seing his towardnes reserved him for a further instrument to sett forth his glory; he left the Univerfity, and the 6th of *May* 33 *Hen. VIII.* being nineteen yeres old, went to the Inns of Court, and was Student in *Graies Inne*, where he proffited as before at *Cambridge*. But as his yeres and company required, he wold manie tymes be merry amonge young Gentlemen, who weare most desirous of his companie, for his wittie mirth and merry

He was Student in Graies Inne.

ry temper ; among the rest I hard him tell this merriment of himself, that a mad companion^{A merry trick of his yewth.} inticed him to plaie, where in short tyme he lost all his money, bedding, and books, to his companion, having never used plaie before, and being among his other company, told how such a one had misled him, saieing he wold presently have a device to be evne with him, and with a long tronke made a hole in the wall near his plaiefellowes beds head, and in a fearefull voice spoke thus thorough the tronke: *O mortal man repent, repent of thy horrible synne, plaie, cosenage and such lewdnes, or els thou art damned and canst not be saved*, which at midnight all alone so amazed him as drive him into a sweate for feare. Most penitent and heavy, the next daie in presence of the yewthes he told with trembling what a fearefull voice spake to him at midnight, vowinge never to plaie againe, and calling for Mr. *Cecill* asked him forgivnes on his knees, and restored all his money, bedding and books. So two Gamsters weare both reclaymed with this merry device and never plaid more. Manie other the like merry jests I have hard him tell, to long to be here noted.

About the later tyme of King *Hen. VIII.* Mr. *Cecill* comeinge from *Graies Inn* to the Court to see his father, it was his chaunce to be in the presence chambre, where he met two preists, chaplaines to *O Neale*, who was then

The first
suite he had.

Court, and talking long with them in *Latin*, he fell in disputation with the preists, wherein he shewed so great lerning and witt, as he proved the poore preists to have neither, who weare so put downe as they had not a word to saie, but flong awaie in chafe, no lesse discontented then ashamed to be foiled in such a place by so young a berdles yewth. It was told the Kinge that young Mr. *Cecill* had confuted both *O Neale's* chaplaines, the King called for him, and after long talke with him, much delighted with his aunsweres, the King willed his father to find oute a suite for him. Whereupon he became suitor for a reversion of the *Custos Brevium* Office in the *Common Pleas*, which the King willingly graunted, being the first suite he had in his life.

His first
wife.

After he had spent some tyme at the Inns Court, where though he much profited, yet his quicke spirit apter to reach at a furdur fortune, framed another course in the world, betakeinge himself to mariage, and the 8th of *August* 33 *Hen. VIII.* tooke to wife *Mary Cheeke*, sister to Sir *John Cheeke* Knight, who lived with him not above a yere and a quarter, by whome he had his first sonne *Thomas* as aforesaid. Afterwardes the 21st of *Decembre* 38 *Hen. VIII.* being twenty foure yeres old, he married *Mildred Cooke*, one of the daughters of Sir *Anthony Cooke* Knight, a wife and vertuous Gentlewoman, who lived with him
about

His Lord-
ship's second
wife.

about yeres together, long after he came to be Treaforer of *England*: She was excellently lerned, her perfection in the *Greeke* so great, as she translated a peece of *Chrysostome* out of *Greeke* into *Englishe*. He had by her *Anne*, *Robert*, and *Elizabeth* as aforesaid; and *Fraunces Cecill* a daughter, and *William* and *William*, who all three died younge.

In the first yere of King *Edward* the sixt, the Duke of *Somerset* then Lord Protector, hearing of Mr. *Cecill*'s towardnes and gifts, sent for him to be Master of his Requests, He was Master of Requests to the Duke of Somerset. and the same yere he went with the Duke of *Muselborough* feld, where he was like to have byn slaine, but myraculoussly sated by one that putting forth his arme to thrust Mr. *Cecill* out of the level of the canon had his arme stricken of. In the second yere of King *Edward* the sixt he was committed to the *Tower* about the Duke of *Somerset*'s first calling in question, where he remayned a quarter of a yere and was delivered. The Duke of *Somerset* perceiving the Kings great likeing of Mr. *Cecill*, about the third yere of the Kings Reigne, prefer'd him to be Secretarie of Estate and a Counsellor to the King, being but twenty five yeres old; and *A* 5. *Edw. VI.* he was made Knight, a rare thing or a signe of rare gifts, He was made a Counsellor and Secretary to King Edward VI. for so young a man to be called to such places of honor and estimation wherein he contynued tyll the King's death. The twoe Dukes of *Northum-*

Northumberland and *Somerſett* ſtrived to wynne the Secretarie ſure to them, both uſing him exceeding kindly, tempting him with great offers and gifts. He ſhew'd duty to both but wold take gifts of neither, and ſo, though with difficulty, he carried himſelf even to both all King *Edward's* tyme. But after the King died he was greatlie threatned and diſgraced by the Duke of *Northumberland* for miſlykinge or not conſentinge to the Duke's purpoſe, touching the Ladie *Jane*; yet he carried the matter ſo temperatelie as he kept his conſcience free, his truth to the Crowne, and himſelf from danger.

When Quene *Marie* came in, ſhe granted Sir *William Cecill* a generall pardon, and in chooſinge her counſellors, ſhe had ſo good likeing of him, as if he wold chaunge his religion, he ſhould be her Secretarie and Counſellor; and to that purpoſe ſome wiſe men weare under-hand ſett to allure him, and diſcover his diſpoſition; but like himſelf he wiſely and chriſtianly aunſwered he was tought and bound to ſerve God firſt and next the Quene; but if her ſervice ſhould put him out of God's ſervice, he hoped her Maieſty wold give him leave to chooſe an everlaſting rather than a momentarie ſervice; and for the Quene ſhe had byn his ſo gracious Ladie as he wold ever ſerve and praie for her in his hart, and with his body and goodes be as ready

dy to serve in her defence, as anie of her loyal subjects, so she wold please to graunt him leave to use his conscience to himself, and serve her at lardg as a private man, rather then to be her greatest counsellor. Here was no tornecoate, nor seller of his soule, nor renouncer of his faith for ambition of a Counsellor's place as many wold doe upon so faire an offer. But where the foundation is surely laid, the house is hardly shaken, and God laieing the first stone the building must needs prosper, as is verified in him, to whome God gave the fruits of his faith and the reward of a good steward. And though he had still the *Quenes* favoure he was by some not favouring, or fearing him sought to be brought in danger, urging many heynous crymes against him, among the rest for being retained in service and intelligence with the Lady *Elizabeth* now *Quene*, but neither their might nor mallice prevailed, for his temperance quenched their fury, and his witt made escape out of daunger. Yet the *Quene* still used him very graciously, and forbore either to hear his accusors, or to disgrace himself: For in the second yere of her reigne, he was sent to *Bruxells* with the Lord *Pagett* to bring in Cardinall *Poole*.

In the Parliament tyme there was a matter in question, for something the *Quene* wold have passe, wherein Sir *Anthonie Kingstone*,
Sir

He refused
to be a
Counsellor
in *Quene*
Maries
tyme.

Sir *William Courtney*, Sir *John Pollard*, and many others of value especially westerne men were opposite, Sir *William Cecill* being their Speaker having that daie told a good tale for them. When the House rose, they came to him and said they wold dyne with him that daie; he aunswered, they shold be welcome, so they did not speake of anie matters of Parliament, which they promised; yet some beganne to break promise, for which he chalenged them. This meeting and speech was knowne to the Counsell, and all the Knights and Gentlemen were sent for and committed; Sir *William Cecill* was also sent for to my Lord *Pagett* and Sir *William Peeter*; he desired they wold not doe by him as by the rest which he thought somewhat hard, that was to committ them first and to heare them after, but praid them first to heare him and then to committ him if he weare guilty. You've speake like a man of experience, quoth my Lord *Pagett*, and upon hearing the circumstances he clered himself and so escaped imprisonment and disgrace.

When Quene *Elizabeth* beganne her most happie reign, Sir *William Cecill*, for his truth and tried service to her, was worthely called and honourably advanced by her Majestie to be her Secretarie and Counsellor, and was first sworne of anie Counsellor she had, at *Hatfield*, where she laie at her first coming to

He was
made Secre-
tary to Qu.
Elizabeth.

to her Crowne, wherein he then beganne to kindle the light, that ever since gave light and life to this State. Her Majesties christian princely care and inclination, concurring with his wife and provident counsell, tooke then rooting, to roote out popery and superstition, and to plant the practise and profession of the gospel in this realme, and the peaceable platforme of government we nowe enjoye in this state, with so happie peaceable and plentiful successe as for so long a tyme of government, so famous exploits and so manie notable things happeninge in the tyme of her Majesties reigne, are more admirable in this age then matchable in former in all the nations of Christendom; which begonne and contynued first by Godes goodnes, and her Majesties godlie princely care and providence, was also not a little furthered and perfected by his Lordships pollicie, paines, and contynuall carefull counsell, never slackinge the service, nor loosinge the opportunitie, ever esteeming his greatest paines his greatest pleasure to please his Prince and plesure his contrie.

At the first Parliament holden in the begynninge of the Quenes reigne, yowe maie imagine what great difficultie arose in reformeing and altering religion, a worke of greatest moment; and for the better satisfaction of the State of Parliament, by his Lordships advice there was a conference had in *Westminster*
D Church

The alteration of Religion.

Churche by the old and newe Bishops and other learned men upon some questions and points devised principally by himself touching the exercise of Religion, which was so polittiquely handled, and by himself so wisely, learnedly, and temperately governed, that such satisfaction was givne, as the Quene and whole State of Parliament with one consent established the forme of Religion now used and preached all this Quenes tyme, to the glory of God, the honor of the Quene, the peace of the Realme, the weale of the people, and the perpetuall praise of those that weare instruments to worke so notable a blessing for their Contrie as to bring it into the bright shyning light of the Ghospell.

The alteration of our coines and moneyes.

After he had indevoured to bring the health of the soule, he next labored for the wealth of the State. For by his polittique advice the coigne, and monyes of the Realme, weare brought to the stander of fynesse now current in *England*, from the former baseness, being nowe one of the richest coines of the world, to the great enriching of this Realme and Commonwealth; for he held a position (which undoubtedly is true) that Realme cannot be rich whose coigne is poore or base, and he wold also saye, *Oportet patrem familias magis esse vendacem quam tenacem*, That Realme must nedes be poore that carrieth not out more then it bringeth in.

In

In the second yere of the Quene he was sent into *Scotland* to treat of Peace, which chiefly by his greates travaile and wisdom was effected and a Peace concluded with some honourable conditions for the Quene and Realme as seldome or never hath byn seene or red of, to the greates quiet and honor of this Realme, and no small reputation to himself; for as the Scripture saith, *Happie are the Peace-makers*; a thing pleasing to God, and plausible to men, which afterwards turned to the happines of himself and his Contrie, he in bringinge and nourishing peace, and his Contrie for enjoyeing it so longe. It was ever observed as one notable vertue in his disposition to be desirous to preserve Peace in the Land, which undoubtedly is the only blessing can fall upon a nation.

He was sent
Ambassador
into Scot-
land.

Which three last points, *viz.* the alteration of Religion, chaunge of our coigne, and turning troubles into peace, if youe enter into the difficulty of effecting, and the vertues of their effects, they will give youe pregnant proofes of his wisdom, pollicie and paines; the first thought almost impossible and unlikely to be done so quietly and quickly, that Religion for which all the world makes warre, should be soone chaunged, reformed and established with peace; that our base coignes should be turned into rich moneyes; and that our troubles weare now pacified and peace perfected,

which powred plenty into our land: And so by one man's labor all blessings to be brought us at once, religion the life of the soule, rich moneyes the synewes of our strength, and peace the harvest of our labors, and fountaine of our wealth. Which three greate things to be so easily and speedely compassed, as is notably manifest, principally by his meanes and industry; I leave it to the world to judge, whither working them at the first and contynueing them to the last (even till his death) doe not prove the author a wise and worthy man; for the like to be done in the like manner hath seldom beene seene.

He was
made Ma-
ster of the
Wardes.

In the third yere of the Quenes Reigne, the 10th of *January*, he was worthely made Master of the Wardes after the death of Sir *Thomas Parry*.

Rebellion in
the north.

In the 12th yere of her Majesties Reigne the rebellion of the north beganne; wherein himself being Secretarye alone, and thereby all dispatches passing his handes, he tooke so intollerable paines and care, and gave so provident counsell, as matters weare so quickly expedited and pollitiquely carried, that the rebells weare soone suppressed without battaile, blood or danger, to the honor of the Quene and weale of the Realme.

Thus happily begynninge he constantlie contynued his course, as hath byn seene, to the good of Prince, People and Contrie, to his
immortal

immortal praise and worthy reputation, with such wisdom and moderation as was worthy a man of his place, all the tyme of his service as Secretarie, carrying himself so straunglie tempered (above the nature of a man) as he was never seene to be angrie, most patient in hearing, and ready in dispatchinge, still contynueing constant in his buyness, and withall so courteous and affable, as no man went from him discontented or discouraged, which made him loved, feared and honored.

*His patience
all the tyme
he was secre-
tary.*

In the tyme of which fortunate risinge, youe must imagyne the harts of some did also rise against his fortune, who weare more hott in envieing him, then hable to followe him, detracting his praises, discouraging his services, and plattinge his daunger; as on a tyme I hard him tell that a booke pestilently and passionately penned against the Nobility came to his handes, and was seene upon his table, by a great noble man a Counsellor, which booke he had read with great dislike, noting manie notable lies and faultes of the writers; yet there was a formall tale told to the Lords of the Counsell, who then weare most of them great noble men, and to divers other of the Nobility, inferring and inforceing it to be done or procured by himself to disgrace the Nobilitie. Whereupon such a fire was kindled against him in the hartes of all the Lords, as a platt was laid to cut him of; he was thereupon called

He shold
have byn
sent to the
Tower with-
out the
Quenes
knowledge.

There was
one set to
kill him.

called before the Counsell without the Quenes knowledg and charged; which, though he sufficiently aunswered, yet was it resolved what aunswere soever he made, he shold be sent to the *Tower*, and then they wold find matter enough against him. Whereof he haveing advertisement, wrote to the Quene of their purpose, who commanded nothing shold be done against him without her privity, or els he had byn sent to the *Tower* without her knowledg. So the fire was covered but not quenched; for not long after, a vilaine was hired to kill him, and set at a staires foote to dispatch him as he came from the Quene, but being warned of it, he went downe another waie and escaped death. Here maie be noted howe great mischeifes maie rise upon small causes; for this was only for haveing the booke, which he detested and condemned as much as they, and sought to have the writer apprehended as belonged to his place, yet his jelous ennemyes torned his honest meaninge to a horrible mischeife.

He shold
another
tyme have
bene killed.

As he had some foes at home, so he wanted not ennemyes abroad; for another tyme a popishe practiser and traiterous vilaine, was by some semynaries perswaded to kill him; and being with him alone in his chambre, standing behind him leaning upon his chaire, had not the power to performe his vilanye, though when he came in, he tooke his dager ready in his hand to do it. So here youe see, though his
wisdom

wisdom weare a worker, yet only God was his upholder, and the stepps to honor are much paines and more daunger, the highest rising subject to the lowest fallinge. But in dispiht of envy, danger and death, he held on his high waie as by a straight lyne, forgetting and forgevinge injuries, trulie performeing his service to his Prince and Contrie. And though at that tyme in the begynning of alteration of Religion, and setling a newe forme of government in the State; it maie be imagyned what warrs threatened, and put in execution, what secrett plats and practises at home and abroad, what wants to be supplied, what division among the Counsell, and doubts among the people weare then on foote; wherein himself being the principall actor tooke so painefull care, and gave so carefull counsell, as with his discreet and pollitique temperaunce and providence the government was wrought and brought to so good ordre and peaceable state, as hath forty yeres byn seene and tasted in *England*, though seldome found or read of in other nations.

As he contynued his care in service, so he grewe in favour of his Prince and likeing of the people, and having twelve yeres served as Secretary, he was by her Majesty created Baron of *Burghley* upon *Shrove* Sondaie the 25th February 1570. contynueing still Secretary, and in June 1572. he was made Knight of the

He was
made Lord
Treasurer of
England.

His justice
and dispatch
of causes.

the Garter, and the 15th of *July* followinge, he was made Lord High Treasurer of *England* upon the death of the Lord Marques of *Winchester*, which place he honored as much as the place honored him, therein exercising his wisdom and temper in so good sort, as shew'd his truth to his soveraigne, and careful administration of justice to her subjects, justice and peace kissing eche other. He grewe now to some greatness, carrying a reputation to beare such sway and rule in the Comonwelth and State, as it was thought nothing was done without him; his justice with his integrity, and temper with his justice so concurring, as well were they fatigued cold bring their cause to this hearing to be tried before him; so equally hearing, justly censuring, and carefully dispatching causes, as fewe suits weare suffered to linger long before him, but were either ended by judgment, or ordered by agreement, using one singular course in hearing causes, that if he found them difficult, or rigorously to be censured, he wold ever make motions for arbitrement, and either by his authoritie or perswasion agree them. So as he ended more causes in a terme then weare before in a twelvemoneth, insomuch as all men had such an opinion of his justice and indifferance, as they never thought themselves satisfied, nor their suits well ended, that either had not their cause brought to his hearing, or his letter in their behalf,

half, which drue upon him such multitudes of <sup>The multi-
tude of suits
to him:</sup> suites as was incredible but to us that sawe it:

For besides all buyfines in counsell or other weighty causes, and such as weare aunswere by word of mouth, there was not a daie in a terme wherein he receaved not threescore; fourescore, and an hundred petitions, which he commonlie read that night, and gave every man aunswere himself the next morninge as he went to the hall; wherein one notable thing was observed of his excellent memory, that reading those bills over night, there was not one petitioner came to him for aunswere of his petition the next morninge, but so soone as they told but their names, or what contriemen they weare, he wold presentlie remember it, tell them the matter, and give them his aunswere; which was a signe of a memorable memorye; among so manie other great causes to hold in mynd so manie other severall suits; but as his memorie was excellent, his paines and industrie was incessant; the one mutually assistinge the other brought him to that perfection. He used also to aun- <sup>He gave
aunswere to
the poorest
suitor him-
self:</sup> swere the poorest soule by word of mouth, appointing tymes and places of purpose so long as he was habile; but after he grewe impotent and weake and cold not goe abroade, as his nature was ever prone to doe good, he neglected no meanes to performe it; for then he devised a newe waie which others maie imytate;

E

that

that by age and infirmities being forced to keepe his chamber and somtymes his bed, he tooke ordre that poore suitors shold send in their petitions sealed up, whereby the poorest man's bill came to him as soone as the riche: Upon every petition he caused his aunswere to be written on the back fyde, and subscribed it with his owne name, or els they had his lettre or other aunswere, as the cause required; by which charitable and honorable device there was none staid for aunswere but was speedely dispatched, and as manie or more suits answered as when he went abroad. Thus held he on his course like himself, praid for of the pore, honored of the riche, feared of the bad, and loved of the good; to his Prince and Contry loyall, and to the subjects most pleasinge, wondering at his great wisdome and gravitie, and praising his justice and integritie; most men honoring him with the title of Father of the Comonwealth, whereof they sawe him as tender and carefull as of his owne child; shewing his care of the service of the State to be such, as I can truely witnes, he never respected pleasure nor proffit, wealth nor health, friends nor foes, nor any thing of his private, neglecting and rejecting them all, when there was anie service of his Prince or causes of his Contry to be followed or performed; wherein his labor and care was so incessant and his studie so greate, as in cases of necessity he cared
neither

His incessant diligence and laborious life.

neither for meate, sleep or rest, tyll his busines weare brought to some end: And when he was in never so great paine, or sickley, if he cold but be carried abroad, he wold goe to dispatch buyfines, though it weare with never so greate paine or daunger; his industrie in tymes of necessity very greate, and his dilligent and studious course of life continually no lesse, as caused all his frends to pittie him, and his very servaunts to admire him, and myself as an ey-witnes can testifie. I never saw him half an hower idle in twenty four yeres together; for if there weare cause of buyfines he was occupied tyll that weare done (which comonly was not long in hand;) if he had no buifines (which was verie feldome) he was reading or collectinge; if he ryd abroad he haid suitors; when he came in he dispatched them; when he went to bed and slept not, he was either meditating or readinge; and I have hard him saie, he did penetrate farder into the depth of causes, and found out more resolutions in his bed then when he was up: He left scarce tyme for sleepe or meales, or leasure to goe to bed; yet so long as his buyfines went forward, and his Prince and Contry pleased, he thought his paines a pleasure, and all he cold doe too litle; so great was his care, and love to his Prince and Contrie.

Nowe was he growne to the haight and perfection of a grave and greate Counsellor, by his His wisdom and gravity in Counsell

infinite continuall study, care and practise, as drew unto him so reverent reputation and respect, of the rest of the Counsellors, as for his great gravitie and depth of his wisdom they rather admired and applauded his counsells then opposed his resolutions; so wise and aptly devised, and so speedely expedited, as no cause in counsell of greatest moment but was with celeritie and facillity dispatched before it was thought to be begonne. Whereby both matters of State, expeditions of Warre, and services of the Realme took good effects and happy successe, never endangered by delaie or want of providence, as the world was then manifest; and when any divisions in counsell or devices abroad bred factions or feare of daunger, his temper and wise foresight ever quallified and reconciled the one, and prevented the other.

is fortunate counsellors.

And herein was one notable observation, that in all his counsells (either by God's goodnes, or his owne wise providence, or rather both) he was very happily fortunate, fewe miscarrieng, or seldome circumvented, which argued God's goodnes concurring with his provident wisdom, and his wisdom directed by God's goodnes, torned all to his glory and good of this Realme. Thus both in causes of estate, in counsell, and all other publique or private, he held one gravity and rule of a wise man; all private suits quickly dispatched with many

ny praicis of all sorts of suitors; all publique never foreflowed as in the Parliament, Starre-chambre, or other publique places, where there was not a fyttinge, but left some note of his wisdom, gravity and justice; all which his speeches and deedes so expressed, that when all men had spoken to the purpose as was thought most excellently, or in cases of difficulty most doubtfully, yet when he came to speake, he so farre exceeded, as his gravitie, wisdom and eloquence so weighed and reached to the depth, so farre above the reache of the rest, as was no lesse admyred then allowed of the hearers; all things perfectlie concluded and all doubts exactly clered; and yet which was observed a straung thinge in him, that for all his longe and publique speeches, he was never seene to studie a quarter of an hower, or to take notes, or torne bookes for anie of his speeches; his long experience and practise made him neede no helps. And it was noted, that wheresoever he sate in place of justice, there wanted not nombres that came only to heare him speake, praising his gifts, and praising God for giving this Realme so grave, good and wise a man, which drewe unto him so great estimation, as all men, even his very ennemyes, His reputation in England. thought him to be the wisest and graveest Counsellor of this age, the best sort extolling his worthynes, the rest fearing his justice and greatness: For he was nowe thought to carrie the
fwaie

swaie of all matters in the Realme, that nothing of importance was done without him, and whatsoever he did was allowed both of Prince and People. The Quene never resolving any cause of estate without his counsell, nor seldome past any private suite from her self, that was not first referred to his consideration, and had his approbation before it past; the people thought nothing well done that went not thorough his handes, so as he was famous for his wisdome, gravity, and greatnes thorough out this Realme, as his service, painefull life, and care of his Contrie deserved.

His estimation in for-
reine nations.

As his estimation was worthely great in his own Contrie, so was he greatlie famous in all nations in Christiandome, and other remote partes of the world; for there was no contrie where they held not his gravitie, wisdome, pollicie and temperaunce in admiration, termeinge him the wisest and gravest Counsellor of the world: As on a tyme a great man of *Fraunce* lyeing in *England* wrote a letter to the *French* King, saieng, he was the wisest and gravest Counsellor of Christiandome, that in the Court he was accounted *Pater Patriæ*, and amonge the comon people *quasi Rex*, for his great reputation, and the swaie he bore in the State, the fame whereof was both a greate terror to the ennemyes of this nation, and no small comfort to our frends; for so long as he was hable to stowre and manage his busi-
nes,

nes, what privie practife or publique invasions or attempts prevailed? what conference in counsell over-reached him? what subtiltie in treaties circumvented him? or what Princes pollicie cold take advantage of his resolutions? His knowledg in treaties and sharpnes of wit was such, as when anie greate Ambassador came to treat with him, which weare thought the best lerned and wisest men in Christiandome, he wold so farre exceed the reach of theire wifdoms, as they rather revered him, then stood in opposition with him in any argument; in treaty and warre more glad to goe awaie with reasonable satisfaction, then willing to attempt any device of conynge to serve theire tornes. There was no forme or manner of treaties that he had not sene and had ready in his heade; neither was there ever anie went beyond him in any point of treatye.

His great
experience
in Treaties.

He was ever more readie to prevent, then our ennemyes to attempt; and more provident to secure us, then they weare to offend us; infomuch as there was no ennemye in *England* that feared not the Grand Treasurer, wished his death, and practised to purchase it with promise of lardge rewards, perswading men most devilishly it was meritorious to kill him, and many set in hand to attempt it; though God wold never suffer them to performe it, thinking that if he weare taken awaie,

Oure enemies afraid
of him.

waie, there shold then have byn no obstacle for them to worke their wills on this State. So famous and fearefull was his wisdom to our ennemyes abroad, as served us manie tymes for forces at home; for their knowledg of his providences made them often quayle in their practices. There was no Prince or Potentate our friends that did not reverence him, send to him, and seemed to hold his friendship in estimation; and there was no Prince our enemye, that feared him not as much as they hated him. And what estimation soever wee have of him in our owne Contrie, it is certaine his fame is such in all other nations as cannot dye with his death, or be obscured with the fowle breath of envye. There were many demonstrations of the reputation many Princes had of him; as when his Lordship's graundchild Mr. *William Cecill* travayling in *Italie* was brought before Cardinall *Farnese*, a man of great authority, who finding Mr. *Cecill* to be the sonne of the graunde Treasorier of *England*, he lodged him in his house, appointed divers Gentlemen to attend him, and his horses to beat his commaundment; speakeing most reverently of his graundfather, and never left enquireing of the manner of his life, fashion, stature, speech, recreations, and such like; delighting to here it, and talk of him, and at his departing gave him presents and money in his purse. The like did the Duke

Duke of Florence to Mr. Edward Cecill a younger brother, and, which was an extraordinary favour, the Duke gave him leave to ride his owne horse; and at his departure gave him gifts of price. Many other such like tokens have bene shew'd from many princes, provinge how much they held his Lordship in estimation.

By his place and greatnes he had daily intelligence from many contries; and besides forreine letters he received not so fewe as 20 or 30 other letters in a daie, whereby he had somtymes good newes and sometymes bad; if it weare good he wold temperatly speake of it, if yll he kept it to himself. He was never moved with passion in either, neither joyful at the best, nor daunted at the worst; and it was worthely noted in him, that though his body was weake, his courage never failed as in tymes of greatest daunger he ever spake most cherefully, and executed things most readyly, when others semed doubtfull or dreadfull; and when some did often talke fearefully of the greatnes of our ennemyes, and of their power and possibility to harme us, he wold ever aunswere, they shall doe no more then God will suffer them; which argued his whole trust in God, and a courage in himself.

In Causes depending before him in Justice, he regarded neither friend nor ennemy, for he wold be neither partiall to the one, nor

F enclyning

He was never moved with any newes.

His sprightnes in Justice.

enclyning to reveng or wrong the other. In case of hearing, I had rather of the twoe bee his ennemy; for if he leaned anie waie (as willingly he never did) it was rather to the foe, least he might be taxed of partiality; it was also booteles for his servaunts, yea, his sisters sonns or deereft frends, presumeing of his favoure to labor to move or remove him in any matter before him, either for their freind or themselves; for if their cause weare bad, they weare sure of least favoure, if it weare good they weare not sure of so much as another; and I have hard him often very sharplie reprehend his men for bringing suits before him, when they weare not upon good grounds, and wold force them rather to compound then sue. In cases of Justice, none cold ever doe him greater despight then to offer him anie thing, as myself can witnes; for I have seene him refuse a bucke, and many peeces of plate at Newyeres-tyde; and to offer him money was to offend him so as they fared the worse, ever saieing, I will take nothing of you, haveing a cause depending before me. And I dare avowe it, there was never any man livinge cold procure him take a penny, cause depending before him in any Court of Justice. Here was justice without reward or respect, stopping his eies and eares, and closing his hands, neither seing, hearing, feeling, or knoweing the
great

great rich man, from the pooreſt ſoule; his reward is his praiſe in this world, and glory in the next. God ſend us more ſuch, and that his example maie cauſe others imytate his vertues.

His carefull courſe in the Court of Wardes His courſes and juſtice in the Court of Wardes. was no leſſe commendable then the reſt, howſoever his proceedings be ſcanned or ſcan- dalized; for he was alwaies moſt carefull both of her Majeſties proffit and prerogatyve, and to maintain the privileges and authoritie of the Court. For about eight yeres paſt, finding the revenue of that court to abate, he began to looke into the cauſe thereof, writing letters to all the Feodaries of *England*, giving them ſtraight chardg, to looke better to the Quenes ſervice, for the increaſing of her revennue; which letters being ſeene, will prove him carefull for the Quenes proffit. And where no Maſter of the Wardes ever rated male Wardes above one yeres value, and females at two yeres value, according to their lands found by office; his Lordſhip increaſed males to a yere and a half, and alſo raiſed muche the rates of females. And where other Maſters of the Wardes before his Lordſhip demyſed Wards lands at the values found by office, and rated the ſame at one yeres value, his Lordſhip wold ſuffer no leaſe to paſſe before the landes were ſurveyed by the Feodaries, and rated the fynes at a yere

and a half, according to the improved values: So as though in all things he observed the course of the court, and of his predecessors; yet in this he increased it, for her Majesties profit, no further pressing the subject, then he might well beare, which he thought fortified both with conscience, honor, and honesty; though he might have raised it to a higher rate if he had not respected her Majesties honor, and regarded the ease of the subject, seeking rather to wyne their loves to their Prince by indifferent gaine, than by drawing more from them, to procure their curse and hatred. His Lordship hated fraudulent conveyances to defeat the Quene of wardship, and where he found the fault, he did sharply punyſhe it. He wold also severely punyſhe contemners of the Quenes proceſſe, commonly uſing theſe words, *Melior eſt obedientia quam victima*. He ever indevoured to comytt Wards to perſons of ſound religion, and preferred naturall mothers before all others to the cuſtodie of their children, if they weare not to be touched with anie notable exception. He wold often remember cauſes and orders paſt 20 or 30 yeres before, better then the Counſellors, Clerks, and often then the parties whome it concerned. At the argueing of any great cauſes, he not only obſerved and hard their arguments, but wold also with great judgment plead and argue

argue himself, and when he did set downe ordres, he wold ever deliver the reason of his ordre.

His commandments weare short, plaine, and full, so as a man of very meane capacitie, might both understand and effect them. He was spareing in commending any, and yet wold praise some, but lightlie; yet was he most readye to benefitt and cherishe the sufficient and painefull. He favoured not the graunting of Wardes in the fathers life tyme. He wold never suffer Lawyers to wrangle, but ever hold them to the point; which was a cause of great reverence and order in the court. He wold fyne Sherifes deeplie if they weare found negligent, and wold never spare anie indebted to the Quene: All which doe prove he did the Quene more service, and the subject more good, then such as went before him.

It was imagined he made infinite gaine by the Wards, which maie easily be examyned; for such Wardes as he kept in his owne handes, it is to be seene of record in the office; and for such as he tooke money, the officers can testifie what and how many they weare in a yere; and if it be most narrowly sifted, it will appeare that in all the tyme he was Master of the Wards, he reserved to his own use but three, whereof he had proffit but of twoe; and where he graunted yerely three-
score

The gain he made in the Court of Wards.

score or threescore and tenne, or perhaps some yeres fourescore; I dare be sworne, because I knewe it and sawe it, he never tooke benefitt but of twoe or three or perhaps foure in a yere which was in this sort. If either the mother, the friends, or anie for them did write unto him that they wold give 100 *l.* or 200 *l.* or 300 *l.* and rarely above, to have the preferment of a Wardship, they had it without indenting, bargayninge, or examyning the value, if it proved worth fyve tymes so much as they paid for it. At other tymes, peradventure once or twice in a yere, a Nobleman, Ladie, or Gentleman that had a Ward for him worth 500 *l.* or 1000 *l.* wold send him some 8 *l.* some 100 angels, or a peece of plate at *Newyeres-daie*. And here is all the proffitt that one yere with another he made of it, unles it weare by a chaunce it might be greater, which happened not once in seven or tenne yeres. The rest he gave freely most to Courtyers, some to his friends, some to his servaunts, some to the mothers, and some to the Wards themselves. It was found by the books of entries, that in twoe yeres and a half his Lordship gave in all about 200 Wardes, whereof he gave 180 to Courtyers; and yet some cold scarce aford him a good word, but his goodnes was greater then theire desertes. Here you see the remaine of 200 was but 20 to give or sell, whereout he cold not raise moch to himself.

Nowe

Nowe let the world judg what cold be raised yerely above the ordynary fees, which put together cannot amount to much. But the multitud measured his gaine, rather by that he mought then that he made; yet howsoever it be esteemed, the truth will ever appeare, and is here most approved, as before is set downe, which can never be impugned. There was never Master of the Wardes gave more Wardes freely, nor sold fewer to his private comodity; and if he had byn miserable, covetous, or corrupt, he wold neither have givene so many nor solde so fewe; he was not bound to give anie man a Ward, worth 500 *l.* or 1000 *l.* freely, or to let one have a Ward for 100 *l.* worth 600 *l.* without a better recompence to himself; but his deedes doe approve him for as honorable and bountiful a Master of the Wardes, as anie hath gone before him; neither can his takinge detract from his honor, though they much dyminishe his deserts; he had nothing so much as he ought, nor toke so much as he mought, without touch to honor or honesty.

Now I have spoken of his berth, rising, and services in publique affaires, to prove he was truly honorable, honest, and noblie inclined, let me discrybe unto youe his course and condition in his private disposition, and domesticall life, as truely as I can, though not so truely and exquisitely as he practised the same, leaving it to the sensure of the wise

and judicious, not partiall, or passionate, to judge of. his vertues, rather by his deedes, then others reportes.

His honorable and orderly house-keeping.

And first to begynne with his housekeeping; it is to be noted he kept principally two houses or families, one at *London*, the other at *Theobaldes*, though he was at chardg, both at *Burghley*, and the Court. At *London* he kept ordinarily in household, fowerscore persons, besides his Lordship and such as attended him at the Court, the chardg amounting to thurtrie poundes a week, and the some yearly to 1560*l.* and in the terme times, or when his Lordship laie at *London*, his chardg increased x*l.* or xii*l.* a week. At *Theobaldes* he kept continually his household lying at *London*, 26 or 30 persons, the chardg being weekly xii*l.* and also releved there daiely 20 and 30 poore people at the gate, and besides gave weekly in money by Mr. Neale his Lordships Chaplaine, Vicar of *Chesthunte*, twenty shillinges to the poore there. The weekly chardg in setting poore on work, as Wooders, Labourers, &c. came to tenne pounde, and so his weekly chardg at *Theobaldes*, his household being at *London*, was xxii*l.* and the yerely some 1144*l.* both sumed together his yearly chardg was 2704*l.* When his Lordship was continuallie at the Court, which you maie imagine much increased at his Lordships comeing home, for I have hared his officers

ficers affirme, that at his Lordships being at *Theobaldes*, it cost him fowerscore pounce in a week. The chardg of his stable, not here mentioned, was yearly 1000 markes at the least. Besides which certeine chardg he bought great quantities of corne in tymes of darth, to furnishe markets aboute his houses at underprices, to pull downe the price to releive the poor. He gave also for releasing of prisoners in manie of his later yeres 40 *l.* and 50 *l.* in a terme; and for twentie yeares together he gave yerelie in beefe, bread, and money at *Christmas* to the poore of *Westminster*, *St. Martins*, *St. Clementes* and at *Theobaldes* 35 *l.* and sometymes 40 *l. per Ann.* He gave also yerely to 20 poore men lodging in the *Savoy*, 20 suits of apparell. He gave also for three yeres before he died, to poore prisoners, and to poor parishes, in money weekly xlv *s.* so as his certeine almes, besides extraordinaries, was cast up to be 500 *l.* yerelie, one yere with another. His almes yerely 500 *l.*

Having set downe his chardg, I will note unto you the ordre and goverment of his house. For the officers and their places it is to long here to name them, being such and so manie, as are usuallie in the greatest mens houses. All places furnished with sufficient and honest men, as I am assured the world can report. For his nombre of attendaunts he was as honorable and ordrelly served, as served with a

man of his Lordship's place and degree; and as nere as he could he wold never entertaine, or kepe anie contentious, vitious, or evill disposed persons, after performauce of buyfness (as fewe men about him were idle.) There weare praiers every daie said in his chappell at 11 of the clock, where his Lordship and all his servaunts weare present, and seldome or never went to dynner without praiers; and so likewise at 6 of the clock before supper; which course was observed by his steward in his Lordship's absence. When his Lordship was able to fyt abroad, he kept an honorable table for noblemen and others to resort unto; but when age and infirmities grew on him, he was forced to kepe his chambre, where he was void neither of company nor meate, having as manie of his frendes and children, as before he had straungers: His diet being then as chargable weekely, as when he came abroad. His Lordship's hall was ever well furnished with men served with meate, and kept in good ordre; for his Steward kept a standing table for Gentlemen, besides two othere long tables many tymes twice set out, one for the Clerk of the Kitchin, the other for yeomen. And whither his Lordship weare absent or present, all his men, both retayners and others, resorted continually to meate and meale, at there pleasures, which I have seldome seene in anie house; especiallie having so manie retayners resorting

resorting contynuallie either for suite or private busines. His Lordship was served with men of quallity and stability, for most of the principall Gentlemen in *England*, sought to preferre their sonns and heirs to his service; insomuch as I have nombred in his house attending on the table, 20 Gentlemen of his retayners, of 1000*l.* *per Ann.* a peice, in possession and reversion; and of his ordinary men as manie, some worth 1000, some 3, 5, 10, yea 20000*l.* daily attending his Lordship's service. Nowe looke upon his household, and cast all the former charges together, and let his greatest ennemyes say, whither he kept not an honorable, orderlie, and chargable house: Naye let them find out such another in our tyme, to be so long contyneally and ordrely maintayned, as this proporcion requireth; but whatsoever fame affordeth hym, truth and tyme will bring to light, his truly honorable, godlie, and charitable disposition.

His Lordship's extraordinary charg in entertainment of the *Queene*, was greater to him then to anie of her subjects; for he enter-
His entertain-
ment of
the *Queene*.
tayne her at his house twelve severall tymes, which cost him 2000*l.* or 3000*l.* every tyme, lyeing there at his Lordship's charge, sometymes three weeks, a mounth, yea six weeks together. But his love to his Soveraigne, and joye to enterteyne her and her traine, was so great, as he thought no troble, care, nor cost

too much, and all too little, so it weare bountifully performed, to her Majesties recreation, and the contentment of her traine. Her Majestie sometymes had Straungers and Ambassadors came to her at *Theobaldes*, where she hath byn seene in as great royalty, and served as bountifully and magnificently, as at anie other time or place; all at his Lordship's charge, with rich shewes, pleasaunte devices, and all manner of sportes, cold be devised, to the great delight of her Majestie, and her whole traine, with great thanks from her, and as great comendation abroad.

It is build-
ings setting
many poore
on worke.

He built three houses, one in *London* for necessity, another at *Burghley* of computency, for the mansion of his Barony, and another at *Waltham*, for his younger sonne; which at the first he ment but for a little pile, as I heard him saie; but after he came to enterteine the Quene so often there, he was enforced to inlardg it, rather for the Quene and her great traine, and to sett poore on worke, then for pompe or glory; for he ever said, it wold be too bigg for the small living he cold leave his sonne. The other twoe are but convenient, and no bigger then will serve for a Nobleman, all of them perfected, convenient, and to better purpose for habitation, then many others buylt by great Noblemen, being all bewtyfull, uniforme, necessary, and well seated; which are great arguments of his wisdome, and judgment.

ment. He greatly delighted in making gardens, fountains, and walks, which at *Theobalds* were perfected, most costly, bewtyfully, and pleasantly, where one might walk two myle in the walkes, before he came to the endes.

He also built an Hospytall at *Stameford* nere his house of *Burghley*, all of freestone, and gave 100 *l.* landes to it, for maintenaunce of xii poor men for ever, establisshing many good ordinaunces and statutes, for the goverment thereof, in hope to contynue it to the benefitt of the poore.

He built an
Hospitall.

He gave also thirty poundes a yere for ever, to *St. John's* Colledge in *Cambridge*, where he was a Scholler; he gave also some plate to remaine to the house, for he entirely loved learning and learned men, whome he ever held in reverence and regard, ever using his credit and authority, to releve and advance men of learning and desert. All which greate chardges and expences doe prove he was neither covetous nor miserable; for to be covetous is to desire more then he hath, but he might have had farre more than he had; *ergo* he was not covetous; for where he had a shillinge he might have had a pound, if that vild humor had possessed him. And to be in so great favour of his prince, so great a Counsellor in so great offices, so long tyme together, carrieing the whole swaie of the State, what wealth might he not have gathered if he had coveted

He gave 30l.
per Ann. to
St. John's
Colledg in
Cambridg.

He was nei-
ther misera-
ble nor cove-
tous.

to

to gather more. Are there not some with no office, small favoure of the Prince, no countenance, and no credit in the commonwealth, that have gathered more land, more money, and more welth, than his Lordship left? Yes many. Nay I dare undertake if some had his offices, place, and credit but sevene yeres, they wold gaine more in that tyme, then he did in fourty yeres painefull service: Covetousnes is to desire all, and he might have had more then he desired, which proveth he coveted not so much. But his temperaunce governing all his actions, tempered this humor in him, which tooke rooting in manie others of his predecessors in his place. So likewise to be miserable, is he that can find in his hart to spend nothing; but I can prove he spent liberally, and therefore he cold not be miserable. Look upon his huge expences, and the truth will then shyne out; he spent infinite somes in building, hospitallity, and in maintenance of his honorable port; he gave 500 /. a yere to the poore; he spent more in interteynements of his Prince then anie subject; he kept as faire a stable of horse as anie Nobleman; he made as costlie gardaines, walks, and places of pleasure, as are to be seene: Put thes and the like somes together, and you will confesse them to be greater then cold proceed from a miserable man. Neither spared he any cost for the maintenance of his honor, pleasure

pleasure and reputation; then must his enemies confesse, and his friends approve, he could never be miserable, that could spend so liberally; for a miser will spend nothinge. And for a further manifestation of his honorable inclination, without greedy griping, or insatiable covetinge, see but into his estate at the tyme of his death, there shall youe find proved that I have alleadged; for his land was never above 4000 *l.* a yere to his purse, beside the land he gave to the three young Ladies, wherein he shewed his honorable kindnes; for he bought parte of my Lord of *Oxford's* landes, to give to my Lord of *Oxford's* owne daughters: His money was not above elevene thousand poundes, devided into manie partes, whereof his eldest sonne had not one penny: His plate was not above fowertene or fiftene thousand poundes, devided into manie partes, whereof a great quantity was gevene awaye in legacies: His household stuff was as meane as anie Nobleman's of reasonable quallity, and this was the great wealth of so great a Counsellor, living 40 yeres together in his Prince's favour, in so great reputation, so great offices and so peaceable a tyme, as if his mynd had sorted to his power, he might have gathered in that tyme, tenne tymes the value: And it is well known there have some Barons, neither of great place nor desert, that have died in this Quenes tyme, left as good an estate as this,
which

His estate at
his death.

which infallibly doth prove, he was neither covetous to gaine, nor myſerable in his expences, though the vulgar ſort maie thinke his wealth greater, meaſuringe his eſtate rather by that he might have, then by that he had; but his temperate life, his wiſdome, juſtice, integritie, and honeſt actions, doe more lively and truly diſprove his envious detractors, by his notorious worthy deedes, then can be deviſed by any wordes or invencion of the moſt eloquent writers.

He greatly
respected
and eſtimated
the Nobilitie.

There was never anie man living in his place, did more reſpect and eſteme the Nobilitie then his Lordſhip; and where he found any towardnes in a Nobleman, it wold as much rejoyce him as if he had byn his owne ſonne, and wold doe all he could to bring him forward: He cheriſhed and advaunced as manie as he could, or weare capable; and this one thing was truly obſerved in him, the wiſeſt and graveſt counſellors of this *Quenes* tyme, both of Noblemen and others of deſert, weare all placed and preferred by his Lordſhip's means; it was impoſſible to preferre all, for all weare not worthy; but when he found deſartes and oportunitie, there was no man more forward to advaunce them. It can never be truly ſaid, that he ever ſought to reveng an injurie againſt anie Nobleman, or that he ever incenſed or incited the *Queene* againſt anie of them, or ſought to hinder their Preferment;

neither

neither did I ever heare or doe thinke, that anie Nobleman livinge can justly saie he wrought him anie wronge or notorious injurye, which is a notable observation of his love to Nobility, and a vertue seldome found in such as have lived in his place and greatnes, therein expresseing his deepe wisdome, never to doe wronge to Nobilitie, leaving his sonne to enjoye the benefitt of a Nobleman; and I have often hard him in his speech, greatly reverence and extoll Nobilitie, holding it most precious, as the reward of Vertue, and Vertue in Nobilitie cold neither be sufficiently esteemed nor rewarded.

He was carefull and desirous to further and ^{He sought to} advance men of ^{advantage} quality and desert, to be ^{men of qual-} Counsellors and Officers to her Majesty, ^{ity and de-} wherein he placed manie, and laboured to bring ^{sert.} in more; for there was never any man in his place and authority, brought more to be Counsellors then he did; if since he came in credit, youe recount how many Counsellors and great Officers weare placed by his means, since the begynninge of her Majesty's Reigne; and I could name youe twenty more whome he laboured to preferre, but could not; yet wold envy with her flanders report he hindered men from rising; but howe true it is wise men maie judge, for it was in the Quene to take whom she pleased, and not in a subject to preferre whom he listed.

H

As

He was care-
full of a Sol-
dier.

As his care was great in his Contries service, so especiallie for the releif and maintenaunce of the poore Soldior, which made the rich Soldior or Captaine to saie he loved not a Soldior. It is true he loved not a bad Captaine that robbed and pilld the poore Soldior; but he tooke great care and good ordres for the poore Soldiors; *ergo* he loved a Soldier, and hated him that loved not a Soldior; for there was never anie care and troble so great to him, as to provid money and clothing for poore Soldiers. His Lordship was the first devised to apparell them, and procured their weekly lendings to be paid by pole, not before used; for the Captaine was wont to receive the whole paie for all his Soldiers, who weare then neither so well paid nor pleased, as by this new course, every man to receive it himself; and the reason whie his Lordship misliked a bad Captaine, was when he gave not the Soldier his due, who sometymes starved for want, to the losse of manie a poore soule, and the hindraunce of her Majesties service. There was no man did ever more esteeme and encorage a good Captaine, then his Lordship, as I assure my self manie will confesse, that weare wise and sawe his care and credit ever set on work, both to further all good services, and to provide for all good Soldiors, so as his love to all poore and good Soldiors appeared in that he of all men did most for their releif, which
justly

justly deserved the love of them and all good subjects, who ought with praises to lend their prayers for so worthie a Counsellor, whose wisdom and care of his Contrye ever moved him to take care of those good subjects that served for their Prince and Contrie.

He was most patient in hearing, ready in ^{His mild} dispatching, and myld in ^{answers to} answering suitors. ^{all men.} When they had his denyall, it was givne with so good words, it pleased them as well as his grant; for whither he wold doe, or reject their requestes, his answers were both givne with such myld speeches, as though his denyall caused discontentment, his ready and pleasing answers gave them satisfaction. If the cause were bad, he wold heare it with patience, and reforme it with temperance; if it were good, he wold adjudg it so with good wordes; the worst sort and the best were answered with myldnes, being neither offended at the one nor partiall in the other, insomuch as in 30 yeres together he was seldome seene ayrie, or moved with joye in prosperity, or sorrowe in adversitie; his temper ever noted as one of his greatest virtues, untill within 3 or 4 yeres before his death, when age, the mother of morosity, and continuance of sickness altered even the course of his nature, with paines in his bodie, greifes and cares in his mynde, crosses in counsell, and oppression with multitude of

buyfines for his Contrie, which not fucceeding nor fortting to his defires, fo diftempered his mynd, as bereved him of his wonted myldnes, altered his natural difpofition, and gave waie to ages imperfections; but his anger was neither fuden nor furious; his wordes weare but wind, no fooner fpoken then forgotten, for he wold prefently fpeake faire again; as if he had angrely fpoken to any of his fervaunts, he wold imediatly fpeake faire, and as it weare feeke to be frends with them; and comonly he wold foonest do for fuch as he had falen out with. Here was a noble nature, by whose anger many found more good, then by others faire flattering fpeeches.

His defire
to furdger all
fervices or
attempts.

When anie attempts or fervices of importance weare propounded, he wold dilligently confider of the probability and comoditie of fucceffe, which if he found good for the Quene / or State, he was never quiet till they weare expedited; but if there weare found anie apparent doubt or daunger, he was fparing of his counfell to put fuch forward; he was flowe in refolving, but speedy to expedite good refolutions; for there was none more forward in fervice or action, which in expectation promysed honor or wealth to his Countrie; yet wold envy faie, he hindered manie fervices with his fparing; as though all refolutions of fervice and chardg paffed not from the Quene and Counfell, as well as from him, or as if
all

all nombres of men and all sumes of money were not levied and paid by the Quenes and Counsells warraunt. There is no man that knoweth anie thinge but will confesse this, then had he wronge of all the Counsell, to be only taxed for all errors, or evil resolutions (but it was his misfortune to beare the blame of the worst, and others to have the praise of his service and paines) yea, said some, but he might have perswaded the Quene to doe thinges roundly, and then had they succeeded happilie; but here is the common error of the popular ignorant sort, who think themselves wiser then the Quene and all her Counsell, as though the single imagination of one single braine, cold reache deeper into the State, then the grave heades of so manie wise men laid together. But to the wise it doth appeare, that he was neither hable to rule the Quene or Counsell, nor to direct them, and therefore not to be blamed for errors in Counsell, resolved by all, and not by himself only. Yet howsoever mallice maie suggest, his deedes shewed his forwardnes, care, and counsell, to be redy bent to any good attempt for his Princes and Contries good.

Whosoever had seene his intollerable paines and innumerable buisynes, wold confesse he had little reason to drawe all buyfines to himself, as was said of him; and though all or most part of the buyfines of State, passed his hands

He was oppressed with multitudes of buisines.

hands for a longe tyme together, yet am I assured he fought it not; for it was a thinge he ever complained of, to have so many things thrown upon him; and my self can witnes he was commaunded to manie things he was loth to doe, and wold have refused, but for offending; and there was no man conversaunt with him, but did see him furcharged with buyfiness, whereof he often complayned, that it was laid on his sholders against his will. Howe could it then be his seekinge? And if such as said so, or thought so, had seene his incessant toilsome life, and contynuall care, wold have rather pittied him, then thinke that any reasonable wise man, cold possiblie desire such a laborious life, so out of possibilitie of likelyhood in him to seeke it, as it is most certeine he earnestlie laboured to shune it.

But amidst the streams of his flowinge vertues, the founders of his famous fortune, youe maie imagine there wanted not envy, slaundeth, and spight, the companions of prosperitie, to detract, and as farre as they cold to blemishe the brightnes of his vertues, but that, as youe knowe, vertue ever vanquisheth vice. For all envy (rather motives of his ennemyes malice) had their spring rather from his good deserts then anie cause of dislike, and the cheifest ground of mens grudgings, weare the originalls of his praises, drawinge enmytie upon him,

This dislike
of his enne-
mies was
the originall
of his prai-
ses.

him, not for anie private benefitt to himself, but for the service of his Prince, the love of his Contrie, and his justice to the Subjects; for when courtiers, great men, and many the *Quenes* servaunts, and others, had suites to her Majesty, which she ever referred to his consideration, he finding them neither reasonable nor lawfull, wold ever wish them to take honest and lawfull suits, and then he wold doe his best to further them, as he did many; but otherwise he wold plainely tell them, the *Quene* might doe what she pleased, but he wold never recomend their suite: As some wold sue for monopolies, some for concealments, some for innovations against lawe; all which he protested against, termeing them Cankers of the Commonwealth; others to take leases and torne out the *Quenes* auntient tenants, others to have such of the *Quenes* lands, as weare not fitt to passe from the Crowne, and many such like; which when he misliked or rejected, and that they had not evne what they listed, then they railed on him, though he had done them never so many pleasures before. Here was all that bred him so many ennemyes, for other cause gave he none, neither had he any other ennemyes, shonyng enemyty with all men, and hating to be accounted any man's adversary. Wherein the wife and honest doe see, that honorable and honest servaunts to their Prince and Contrie,

if

if they doe theire duty, they are spighted and envied; if they doe it not, they are subject to daunger and disgrace, and *Virtutis comes invidia*. But his conscience being clere, his courage never quailed, for he neither failed in his justice, nor feared to goe forward in his honorable direct courses.

Observations of many his honorable courses.

He cold never like or allowe to put out any of the Queenes poore tenaunts; he wold never spare any man for the Quenes debts, saieing they deserved no favoure; for their detayning the Quenes money made her ask more of her Subjects; whereby her Majesty was deceaved, and the Subject abused and oppressed. His care and course in getting in the Quenes debts was such, as there was never so much brought in, as since he came in place. He wold never pay penny of the Quenes money without her warraunt, nor ever borrowed or toke anie mony out of the Chequire for his owne use, as manie Tresurers have done: Neither did he owe the Quene a penny when he died. He never had respect of persons, but of their causes; for sones, friends, servaunts, and the greatest straungers, weare to him alike. He wold never hear one side alone, nor beleive the first tale; but wold ever conclud the complaynaunce with this sentence, *Audi alteram partem*. If a poor man brought his Counsell to the

the barre, and the other side failed, he wold ever award the poore man his coste. He wold never suffer Lawyers to wrangle or digresse in pleadinge, advising Counsellors to deale truly and plainly with their clients, that if their matter weare nought, to tell them so, and not to sooth them; and where he found such a Lawyer, he wold never think him honest, nor recomend him to any preferment, as not fit to be a Judge that wold before give false counsell. He ever greatly comended the study of the Comon Lawe, above all other lerninge, saieing, that if he shold begynne againe, he wold follow that study. When he found any obstinately bent to take advauntage in extremity of Lawe, he wold wish not to fall into such a tyraunts hands, willing them remember the sayeing of the *Scripture*, to doe as they wold be done unto. He was so carefull in administration of justice, as many tymes he favoured the Subject in causes of the Prince; as when one Mr. *Throgmorton* had a case in the *Exchequir*, which was hardly recovered for the Quene upon a nyce point, he wold not suffer the judgement be entered, but with this condition, to enter the reasons, and that it was a case of the Quenes prerogative, and not of lawe.

He did never raise his owne rents, nor displace his tenaunts, but as the rents went when he bought the landes, so the tenaunts still

He never
raised his
owne rents.

I

held

held them; and I knowe some of his tenants paid him but 20 *l. per Ann.* for a thing worth 200 *l.* which he enjoyed duringe his Lordship's life.

His care to
place good
Judges.

His care was not least, as nere as possible he could, in preferring learned and good men to the Quene, to be Judges and Officers of the Realme; for he wold often saie, that honest Counsellors to the Quene, and good Judges and Officers in Courtes of Justice, weare the pillers of the State, and that the Quene and Realme were happie in this age, to have such and so manie good Judges in most Courts, as have seldome for number and quallity byn seen in former tymes, therein much and often rejoycing, as in one of God's blessings on this Land.

He was desirous to pre-
ferre good
men into
the Myni-
stery.

As he was hable, he was desirous to pre-ferre good and learned Men into the Mynistry, to be Bishops, Deanes, and Mynisters, affirmeing it to be the only Foundation of the good and peaceable Estate of a Comonwealth, saieing, that where the people weare well taught, the King had ever good obedience of his Subjects; and where there wanted a good Ministry, there weare ever bad People; for they that knewe not howe to serve God, wold never obey the Kinge. He wold saie there cold be no firme nor setled course in Religion, without ordre and government; for without a head, their cold be no body,
and

and if all weare heades, there shold be no bodies to set the heades upon; all must not be like, som must rule, some obey, and all doe theire duties to *God* and the *Church*, like good *Pastors* and *Teachers* in every Function; he held there cold be no government where there was division; and that State cold never be in safety, where there was tolleration of two Religions; for there is no enmytie so greate as that for Religion, and they that differ in the service of God, can never agree in the service of theire Contrie.

His honest and vertuous course of life, was an infallible signe of his christian godly mynd, verified and expressed in the Preface of his Will, so wisely and devynely, as seemed rather to proceed from the mynd of a depe Devyne, then of a great Counsellor professinge matters of pollicye. His piety and great devotion (the foundation of all his actions) was such as he never failed to serve his God, before he served his Contrie; for he most precisely duly observed his exercise of praier, morning and eveninge, all the tyme he was Secretary, never failing to be at the Chappell in the *Queenes* house every Morning, so long as he cold goe; afterwards by his infirmytie, not hable to goe abroad, he used every morning and eveninge to have a quishinge laid by his bed-syde, where he praid daily on his knees, without faile, what hast or buyfines soever he had;

His devotion and observation of praier.

when he cold kneele no more, he had then his book in his bed, and when himself cold not so well hold his booke, he had one to read to him, so as one waie or other he failed not his praiers. He wold never misse sermon if he weare hable but to be carried out, though to his greate paine and daunger, nor ever failed the communion daie every first daie of the moneth, and comonly in his later tyme, there was never a *Sondaie* when he had byn at a Sermon, but he gave xx s. to his Chaplaine, to be bestowed on the poore, besides all his other daily almes which weare greate. Besides his owne devotion, his care was like for his servaunts and houshold, taking ordre for praiers morning and evening in his chappell, and sermons every *Sondai* by his Chaplaines; and if he found any negligent or absent from praiers, as manie tymes he wold purposely enquire, he wold more sharplie reprehend them for that then for anie thinge. This was a true signe of a true Christian, a godlie example of a great Counsellor, the happines of his fowle, the sure foundation of his worthy fortunes, the fountaines of his vertues, the badg of a loyall servaunt to his Prince, and the *primum mobile* of the good successe of his labors for his Contry, and the happie estate of himself. Happie in all things, but most blessed in this, that in seeking the world, he first fought and served his God, who gave him
him

him his greatnes in this world, and no doubt the glory of all greatnes in eternyty.

As he was by Nature very kind and courteous, so was he to his frends affable and temperatlie kind, readie to doe them good when he might do it of himself without prejudice to others, and that not frequentlie; for where he sawe any presume of his favoure, he was sure to have the lesse; so as his frends could never prevaile with him too farre, nor had cause to complaine of his hard nature. There was neither frend nor familiar, nor any living, cold move him doe any thing in favoure or hindraunce of a cause in any Court of Justice before him, or in any other suite; but as the cause fell out upon hearing, so it went, neither remembring suiter nor solicitor. And this was ever found in him, that though he had byn never so famyliar or merry with any his frendes, if presently they had moved a suite to him, he wold look more straungly on them and give but a cold aunswere, tyll he sawe it weare fitt for them to have and him to graunt, at last they had it sometymes hardly, and sometymes with good wordes; yet ever so as they had small cause to presume of his familiarity or courteous speech; insomuch as they that weare most famyliar with him, weare most afraid to move him in any suites; which rule he observed to uphold his Integrity, that neither favoure nor frendship, shold drawe him
to

His nature
to his frend.

to parciality, to the wrong of others, or touch to himself.

His nature
to his enemies.

To his ennemys he was rather remysse then rigourous, apt to forgett and forgive injuries, and to be soone reconciled, infomuch as he was noted for a better ennemy then a frend; for he wold sooner forgive his ennemy and doe him a pleasure, then stiffly stand to his frend; and yet he wold doe for them too, so it might be done without much opposition. It was ever found in him, to be of so myld yelding and charitable disposition, as he cold never beare mallice in his hart, no not to his greatest ennemyes, who though they sought to disgrace, defame and discredit him, yea if it were possible to cut him of; yet was he so farre from revendg, as he rather endeavoured to wyne them with good deeds, then to right his great wronges; and such as sought to doe him most harme, he was ever ready to doe most good, saieing, he wold leave his revenge to God, who ever rewarded all men according to theire deedes. I have often hard him saie, *I knowe I have some ennemyes who doe mallice me, but so doe not I them; God forgive them, and I thank God I never went to bed out of charity with any man.* Which appeared true, for there was never a first *Sondaie* in the month, but he received the Communion, shewing both his love towards God and Man. By observation of his good nature, manie wold fall out with him of purpose; for they knewe
he

he wold then doe most for them. Here was a noble disposition, neither fierce nor furious, nor desirous of revendg, shewing mildnes in spirit, and temperaunce in passion; for when his mighty ennemyes weare most violent, then was he ever most calme; and I have often hard him saye, he had gotten more by temperance and bearing, then ever he did by his witt. Thys made his very ennemyes to wish him alive againe, his worth was never knowne till himself was wanting.

He was of the sweetest, kinde, and most tractable nature that ever I found in any man, gentle and courteous in speeche, sweete in countenaunce, and pleasinglie sociable with such as he conversed; his kindnes most expressed to his children, to whome there was never man more lovinge nor tender harted, and yet with so wise moderation and temper, as he was inwardly more kinde, then outwardly fond of them; and which is ever a note of good nature, if he could gett his table set round with his young little children, he was then in his kingdome; it was exceeding pleasure to heare what sport he wold make with them, and how aptlie and merelie he wold talk with them, with such prettie questions and wittie allurements, as much delighted himself, the children, and the hearers.

He was happie in most worldly things, but most happie in his children and childrens children; he had his owne children, graundchildren,

His kinde
and tracta-
ble nature to
all men.

dren, and great graundchildren ordinarily at his table, setting about him, like the olive braunches; and there was no degree in blood or consanguynytie but was to be found sitting at his table, wherein he wold manie tymes re-
 joyce as in one of God's great blessings. There weare proceeding from his owne Bodie, and his mother might see the fift discent from her self, a happie mother, and a blessed sonne; for, as the *Scripture* saith, he had seene his childrens children, and peace upon the land.

He had manie proceeding from his owne bodie.

His temperat lif void of pompe or glory.

His temperate mynd ever tempered all his actions, which with his wisdome governed the whole course of his life, in such moderate carriage of his greate fortune, as he liked best and desired meane and private things, hating all pompe and glorious shewes; for if he might ride privatlie in his garden upon his little moile, or lye a daie or two at his litle lodge at *Theobaldes* retyred from buyfines or too much companie, he thought it his greatest greatnes, and only happines, shewing he was not high mynded with his high fortune; or if he cold get any of his old acquaintaunce who cold discourse of their yewth, or of things past in old tyme, it was notable to heare what merry stories he wold tell. It was said of him, that he cold call to mynd anie thing he had done, sene, or redd. For when officers and lerned men often talked with him, either in lerninge or causes past, he wold so readily remember
 and

and repeat, either that he hard or redd twenty, yea forty yeres before, as caused many to wonder at his greate memory, having so infinite other things in his head.

He was of spare and temperate diet, and the His temperate diett. fynest feeder of anie man that ever I sawe, eating never but of two or three dishes, drinking never above thrice at a meale, and very feldome wine. He wold many tymes forbearè suppers if he found his stomacke offended. And above all things, what buyfines soever His mirth at his table. was in his head, it was never perceaved at his table, where he wold be so merry as one wold imagine he had nothing els to doe; directing his speeche to all men according to theire qualities and capacities, as he raised mirth out of all mens speeches, augmenting it with his owne, whereby he wanted noe companie so long as he was hable to kepe companie; his speeches though they weare merrie, yet so full of wisdom, as manie came rather to heare his speeches then to eate his meate; for even in his ordinary talke he uttered so many notable things, as one might learne more in one howers hearing him, then a moneths readinge. He loved to be merry himself, and lyked and comended all others that weare of pleasaunt Natures, being discret withall.

His speech in ordinary talk was familiar, His manner of talk. more plain and compendious then often or much, but in speech and aunsweres wisely and to purpose, feldome using a word in vaine;

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his

his eloquence was his playnesse in familiar comon wordes, without Affectation, wherein it was observed in him a thinge straunge, that in so plaine termes as comonly he used, his eloquence was so excellent, as that he spake was impossible to be delivered more rhetorical-ly, clerely, and significantlie, easye to be understood, and remembred, and yet beyond the eloquence of others, thought to be most eloquent. He liked not an indirect or frivolous aunswere, nor a tedious tale, yet wold he heare all, though sometymes tell them theire faults. His ordinarie speeches weare comonly cherefull, merry, and familiar, but witty, sharpe, and pithy, without dulnes or sowrenes; and whatsoever company he came into, either old, younge, men or women, greate or meane, he could talke aptlie and delightfully, and withall so merrely, as was much pleasing to all hearers, and yet not without gravitytie, nor unfitt for a greate Counsellor.

His recre-
ations.

His Recreation was cheifly in his books, where if he had tyme he was more delighted then others with plaie at cardes; or if he could get a learned man to talke withall, he was much pleased. It was notable to heare howe lernedly he could dispute, or rather confute lerned men of any profession, nothing came amisse to him wherein he cold not saie something: Bookes weare so pleasing to him, as when he gott libertie to goe unto his house to take ayre, if he found a book worth the openinge,
he

he wold rather loofe his ridinge then his readinge; and yet ryding in his garden walks upon his litle moile was his greateft Disport: But so foone as he came in he fell to his reading againe, or els to difpatchinge buifines, and this was all his recreation and courfe of his life, his pleasure was others labor and ftudy, and his labor was his owne pleasure. He feldome or never plaid at anie game, for he cold plaie at none, he wold sometymes looke a while on shooters or bowlers as he rid abroad. He was delighted to talk and be merry with his frends only at meales, for he had no more leafure; but he never had anie favourits (as they are termed) nor anie inward companion, as great men comonly have. Neither made he anie man of ^{None knewe his secrets.} his counfell, nor anie ever knewe his secretts, some noting it a fault, but moft thinking it a praife of his wifdome; for by trusting none with his secrets, none cold reveale them; nor opening himfelf to none, there was none cold looke farre into him; yet was there fome two or three who frequented his companie at meals more than the reft, with whome he wold be moft famy-liar and merry, ufing them exceeding kindly, yet they neither knewe his secrets, nor could by their credite or familiarity with them drawe him to doe ani thing in furduring or hindraunce of anie fuite, or any perfon, if their caufe deserved it not.

He hated idlenes, and loved no idle per- ^{He hated idlenes.} fons, but ever encouraged and favoured the

industrious; it was notable to see his continually agitation both of bodie and mynde, he was ever more weary of a litle idlenes then of greate labor. His idlenes was not as that of *Cipio* and *Laelius*, to cast stones into the Sea, nor of *Charles* the *Emperoure*, to take asonder his *Clocke*, but if he had nothing of necessity to doe, he wold yet buyfy himself, either in reading, writinge, or meditation, and never lesse idle, then when he had most leasure to be idle.

His great
experience.

His great paines got him great knowledge, and his continually practise, deep experience; as what was to others most difficult, he could dispatch with greatest facilitie; for besides his dexterity in executing whatsoever was to be done, his generall knowledg in all things of action or experience, in all lerning or readinge, was such, as he carried that in his head as others sought in books, presidents, and records. His best record was his experience, memory, and notable invention, even to that haithe of perfection could be in a man. In what lerninge was he ignoraunt? What State, Prince, or Counsellors weare there he knew not? What Office was there wherein he had not experience? What Court of Justice whereof he knew not the course? What province, county, cittie, or notable place in *England*, could he not describe? Naie, what Nobleman or Gentleman and their dwellings, matches,

matches, and pedegrees, did he not knowe? and could manie tymes discrybe every particular place, person, river, haven, parke, and lordship, near anie Gentleman, better then himself that dwelt there? In what service abroad or at home was he ignoraunt, or not perfectlie practised? He knewe and had seen all maner of treaties with all nations; he knewe the course and kindes of all Ambassages, and cold direct all Ambassadors. He knewe the state of all contries, the nature of all Princes, their frendes, foes, alliances, matches, and pedegrees. He was previe to their pollicies, and practises, and often prevented their purposes. In weighty affairs of counsell, he was most expert; in pollicie of peace, in directions of warre, in provisions for soldiours, and ships, in proceedings of Parliament, in all Courts of Justice, in publique speeches, or private conference, and all gifts of a great Counsellor and wise man, rather hable to direct all, then to be amended by any. His long experience, great age, and greye hares, his painefull service, so long in such a place, his incessant study and labor, and the great delight he tooke in reading, meditation, practice, and the agitation of mynd, joyned with his great witt, lerninge, and memory, as it weare with one consent and true harmony, all made there rendezvous, or receptacle of all the perfections of wisdom and
 vertue

vertue in him, frameing in him all the partes of a wise, godlie, worthy, and perfect Counsellor, such as maie long be sought, but sel-dome seene; and for all-respects so worthy and notable a man, as neither experience of this age, nor writers of former can describe or produce.

He delighted in pedigreees.

He tooke great paines and delight in pedigreees, wherein he had greate knowledge, and wrote whole books of them with his owne hand, which greatly augmented his knowledg both abroad and at home. He observed all daiely accidents, writing whatsoever passed, which he contynued from the tyme he was 19 yeres old even till he died, and if his notes and writings weare well perused and reconciled, there wold be found notable matter for a good writer to ground an excellent Story of this tyme, which writings doe better describe his worthies then words can affoord.

His happines to lyve and die in peace.

His happines in all worldly fortune, was greate, but greatest in this, that God blessing him with so long daies in so happie estate, took him to his mercy in so happie a tyme, that after forty yeres service to his Prince and Contry, in favoure with God and men, with so greate fame of his wisdom, vertue, and worthines, in tyme of truth of the Ghospell, and in peace of conscience and contry, he lived and died in tyme of peace, without alteration of his present fortune, or feare of future

ture daunger, leaving behind him a competent estate for maintenaunce of an honorable house, good children to enjoye it, and so great an issue of his bodie, matched and allied into so manie honorable howses, to the great advancement of his name and honor, which is an infallible argument of Godes blessings, and a deserved reward of his painefull service.

His death was not sodaine, nor his paine The manner of his death. in sicknes greate, for he contynued languishing two or three moneths, yet went abroad to take ayre in his coche all that tyme, retyring himself from the Court, sometymes to his house at *Theobalds*, and sometymes at *London*; his greatest infirmity appearing, was the weaknes of his stomack; it was also thought his mynd was trobled that he cold not worke a peace for his Contrie, which he earnestlie laboured and desyred of any thing, seeking to leave it as had long kept it: For there was no other worldly thing to give him cause of greif; he had the favoure of his Prince, the love of the people, great offices, honors, livings, good children, and all blessings the world cold afford him; yet he contemned the world and them all, and desired nothing but death, either because he had lived long enough, and desired to be in Heaven, or els because he cold not live to doe that good for his Contrie he wold, or rather, as is most likely, both; for he had seen and tasted so much both of the
sweete

He con-
temned the
world.

Noe signes
of death in
him that
night he di-
ed.

fwete and sower of the world, as made him weary to live, and knew so much of the joyes of his salvation, wherein was his onely comfort, as gave him good cause to desire death when it was Godes good pleasure, as he often said; but how or whatsoever it was, the signe was infallible good, he contemned this life, and expected the next; for there was no earthlie thing wherein he tooke comfort, but in contemplation, reading, or hearing the *Scriptures*, *Psalmes*, and *Praiers*. About tenne or twelve daies before he died he grewe weake, and so dryvne to kepe his bed, complayning only of a paine in his brest, which was thought to be the humor of the Goute (where-with he was so long possessed) falling to that place without any ague, fever, or sign of distemper or daunger, and that paine not great nor continuall, but by fitts, and so continued till within one night before his death. At six of the clock at nyght, the phisitions finding no distemper in his pulse or bodie, but assuring his life, affirming it was impossible he should be hart sicke, that had so good temper and so perfect pulse and senses; yet at seven of the clock following, he fell into a convulsion like to the shaking of a cold ague. Nowe, quoth he, *The Lord be praised the tyme is come*; and calling for his children, blessed them and tok his leave, comaunding them to serve and feare God, and love one another.

He

He also praid for the Quene, that she might live longe and die in peace. Then he called for *Thomas Bellot* his Steward, one of his Executors, and delivered him his Will, saieing, *I haue ever found the true to me, and I nowe trust the with all.* Who like a godlie honest man, praied his Lordship as he had lived religiously, so nowe to remember his Savioure *Christ*, by whose blood he was to have forgiveness of his synnes; with manie the like speeches used by his Chaplaines, to whome he aunswered, it was done already, for he was assured God had forgivne his synnes, and wold save his soule. Then he called his Chaplaines with all the companie to saie praiers for him, himself saieing after them all the tyme they praied. He contynued languishing thus most patientlie, still haveing memory perfect till twelve of the clock, lyeinge praeinge to himself, faeing the Lord's Praier in *Latin*; whereupon some inferred he was popishe, but God knoweth the contrary, for it was not straunge to hear him praie in *Latin*, because he never read any books or praiers, but in *Latin*, *French*, or *Italian*, very seldome in *Englishe*. At twelve of the clocke his speeche beganne to faile him, then said he, *O Lord have mercie on me, my speeche faileth me*; and so languishing till fowre of the clocke, sometymes wanting, and sometymes haveing speech; he often said, *O what a hart is this that will not*

let me die! come Lord Iesu, one dropp of death, Lord Iesu? and so lai praieing to himself, as we might heare him speake softlie, in which extremity, youe must imagine, the wailing of his children, frends, and servants, being 20 in the chamber, every one prayeing and devising what to give him, to hold life in him, if it weare possible: But when they strived to give him anie thinge, he came to *himself*, saeing, *O ye torment me, for God's sake let me die quietlie*; then lyeing still, the standers by might hear him saie softlie to himself, *Lord receave my spirite, Lord have mercy on me*; which weare the last wordes he was hard

His memory to the last hower.

to speake. Here was a happie memory, to call for all happines when he cold remember to aske nothing els but that. So he contynued specheles, and sensles, lyeing still as it weare in a sleepe without paine, tyll it was eight of the clocke in the morning, and then died; wherein one thing was observed most straunge, that though manie watched to see when he shold die, he lai looking so sweetlie, and went awaie so myldlie, as in a sleep, that it cold scarce be perceaved when the breath went out of his body. This was the inevitable tyme of mans destiny, the death of his body, the waie of all flesh, but the waie of his soules life, the end of his miseries and entraunce to his joyes. And thus was all lost in a night, that

His myld departinge.

was.

was breeding and lerning threescore and seventeen yeres before.

This was a happie daie to himself, though dolefull to his Contrie. Nowe might one see all the world mourninge, the Quene for an old true and loyall servaunt; the Counsell for a wise and grave Counsellor; the Court for their honorable benefactor; his Contrie and Comonwealth, trembling as it weare at one blowe, to have their head stricken of; the people, widowes, and wardes, lamenting to lose their protector; Religion her patron; Justice her true minister; and Peace her upholder. His children bewailing the losse of such a father, his friends of such a friend, and his servants of such a master; all men rather bewailinge his losse, then hopinge ever to find such another. Yea, his very ennemyes, who in his life tyme could not abyde him, doe now both forrowe for his death, and wishe him alive againe. But alas! let no man greve at his deathe; for it was greater happines to himself, then losse to others; for his life was continually in care of mynd, labor, and paines of bodie, and vexation of spirit; but nowe is his mynd at quiet, his body at rest, and his spirit in joye; let not his friends then bewaile his losse, but rather rejoice at his happines, the worst of him is buried, but the best remaineth, his soule in eternall blisse in Heavene, and his fame on the Earth, which can

never die, so longe memorye of anie thinge is left on the earth. Doe youe remember what youe lost? Thinke of his fortunate life and happie end, and of that is left, which is more precious then that is gone, thinke of his religion, vertues, wisdome, and worthines, his justice, charity, and temperaunce, all which will live ever; the remembraunce whereof being his best and inward gifts, must be to us more comfortable, then it can be grevous to lose but his outside. Let him die in peace, that liveth in eternall joye; that was to bee loved and admired in him, remaineth, and so shall worthely to the contynuall succession of ages, to his great renowne, and be recommended to posterity, to the honor of his name, the comfort of his friends, the good of his Contry, and the good example of manie, to the worldes end, and his owne endles praise.

He was the
oldest Coun-
sellor of
Christian-
dome.

He was the youngest, the oldest, the gravest, and greatest Counsellor of Christiandome; for there was before his death never a Counsellor left alive in *Europe*, that weare Counsellors when he was first made; he was made a Counsellor at twenty five yeres of age, and so continued four yeres in Kinge *Edwardes* tyme; and was the first Counsellor Quene *Elizabeth* had, and so contynued to the fortieth yere of her Reigne; a long and happie tyme to live in such place in so great account and reputation; and in the end having lived so honorable,

vertu-

vertuously, and peacablie, seldome found in men of his estate and employment.

He was borne the 15th of *Septembre* 1521, and died the 4th of *August* 1598, and so if he had lived but tyll the 13th of *Septembre* followinge, he shold have byn threescore and seventene yeres old, whereof he lacked but a moneth, and five or six daies; a long tyme for a man of his place and paines, his mynd broken with care, and his bodie with sicknes, yet his great spirite, and great temper, drewe out his thred the longer.

His age
when he
died.

He was rather meanelly statured, and well proportion'd then tall, being of the middle syfe of making, very straight and upright of body and leggs, and (untill age and his infirmity of the goute surprised him) very active and nymble of body, notablie induring travaile and labor, whereunto he used his body. He was of visage very well favoured, and of an excellent complexion, infomuch as even in his later daies, when he was well and warme, or had newe dyned or supped, he had as good coloure in his face as most faire women. His state of body neither fat nor leane, but well flesht; his heare and beard was all white, which heretofore as seemed was of a browne couloure, his beard of reasonable length, rather well proportioned then too long or too bigg, faire, white and comly; and all parts respected together, I thinke there weare fewe that knewe him but will

Description
of his person
and favoure.

will saie, he was one of the sweetest and most well favoured, well mannered old men that hath beene seene.

His nature
and disposi-
tion.

His naturall disposition was ever gentle, temperate, merry, courteous, affable, and slowe to anger, ever shonnyng revenge, and never doeing anie thing in fury or color, neither yelding to passion, but alwaies tempering his affections; infomuch as most part of his tyme he was noted to be most patient in hearing, so myld and readie in aunswering, as no man went awaie discontent or without a reasonable aunswere and quick dispatch, untill two or three yeres before his death, surprised with ages imperfections, he was a litle sharp in words sometymes, but vanished with the wind. He was noted for a better ennemy then a frend, because he wold sooner forgive and pleasure an ennemy, then leane or be partiall to his frend, as manie are apt to doe, yet had his frends no cause to complaine. He was ever ready to doe good, and loth to hinder any; and yet had he yll fortune, for he seldome advaunced any, but they proved his enemyes. He was naturally merry, and seldome sadd, never moved with joyfull or ill newes. He cold better cover his greifs then help it, and whatsoever was in his mynd wold never appeare in his countenance or speech; he wold of all things make great account of a litle kindnes, a signe of good nature. He was neither pompous
nor

nor proud, and yet loved to live honorably; he was ever most charitable to the poore, whome he wold better releve in theire parishes, then in high waies or streetes. He loved manie tymes to be retyred, to take aire and recreation, and wold then be as merry with his men as among his equalls. In his buyfines he was most painefull, carefull, and watchfull, never well tyll it was done. He liked not to heare *Kings* and *Princes* evyll spoken of, but wold sharplie rebuke such as used it; for he said they weare the *Lords* anointed, whose faults must be amended by others good praiers, not by evill speeches. He was ever carefull to preferre learned and sufficient men. He wold never deliver his opinion in matters of counsell, but where he might debate it, and give the reasons of his opinion. He wold often saie he was a good Counsellor, wold advise his *Prince* to honest and lawfull things. When he hard any speake yll of him, he wold saie, *Bene facere & male audire regium est*; his good deeds weare the bulwarks of his quiet conscience, which was ever defended against envies, assaults, with innocency and true practise of vertue.

He wold usually saie, *in all things, primum* His saicings. *querite Regnum cælorum.*

That he wold never trust anie man not of sound Religion, for he that was false to God cold never be true to man.

That

*That honestie and religion weare the grounds
and ends of good men's actions, which otherwise
wold never prosper.*

*That he built more upon an honest man's
word, then a bad man's bond.*

*That counsell without resolution and execu-
tion was but wind.*

*That division in counsell was daungerous, if
not a subversion of a State.*

*That taking or neglecting opportunitie, was
the gaineing or losing of great fortune.*

*That Nation was happie, where the King
wold take counsell and followe it.*

*That King is happie that lov'd the people,
and they lov'd the Kinge.*

*The strength of a Kinge, is the love of his
subjects.*

*Princes ought to be better then other men,
because they comaund and rule all others.*

*A good Prince must beare all, but strive to
follow the best counsell.*

*He is a happie King can governe and mode-
rate his affections.*

Noe wise Prince can be a tyraunt.

*A good Prince is slowe to anger, and will
never revenge.*

*Princes have manie eyes and ears, and very
long arms; for they beare and see all, reach
farre, and gripe much.*

*Attempts are most probable, being wisely
platted, secretly carried, and spedely executed.*

Good

Good Princes ought first to preferre the service of God and his Church, and next of the Comonwealth, before their own pleasure or proffit.

He ever said in tymes of daunger, our enemies shall doe no more then God will suffer them.

Warre is soon kindled, but peace very hardlie procured.

Warre is the curse, and peace the blessing of God upon a Nation.

A Realme gaineth more by one yeres peace, then by tenne yeres warre.

A Realme can never be rich, that hath not entercourse and trade of marchaundise with other Nations.

Unitye is the strength, and division the ruine of any bodie polittique.

Private gaine is the perverting of justice, and pestilence of a Comonwealth.

He can never be a good Statesman, who respecteth not the publique more than his owne private.

No man can be counted happie in this world that is not wise, and he that is wiseth seeth most of his owne unhappines.

Honor is the reward of vertue, but it is gotten with labor, and held with daunger.

All things of this world are but in estimation; for a litle to him that thinketh it enough, is great riches.

M

That

The Life of WILLIAM CECIL

That he seldome sawe goods yll gotten, but weare quicklie ill spent.

The unthriftie loosenes of youth in this age, was the parents faults, who made them men seven yeres too soone, havinge but childrens judgemente.

Riches weare God's blessings to such as use them well, and his curse to such as did not.

No man can get riches of himself alone, but by meanes of another.

All things, it is said, are written for our instruction, and yet manie torne to our distruction.

He wold often saie, He thought there was never so wise a woman borne for all respects, as Quene Elizabeth; for she spake and understood all languages, knewe all estates and dispositions of all Princes; and so expert in her owne, as noe Counsellor she had cold tell her that she knewe not. She had so rare gifts, as when her Counsell had said all they cold, she wold find out a wise Counsell beyond all theires, and that she shew'd her wisdom and care of her Contrie; for there was never anie great consultation, but she wold be present herself, to her great proffit and praise.

Here have you, Christian reader, the description of a perfect, wise, grave and great Counsellor, such as tyme maie rather hereafter, then as yet hath brought foorth, more to be noted for an example to frame the like, then hoped to be found or rightly followed;
yet

yet have I, in a certain knowledge of the truth of so much as is here written, adventured to describe his life and death, truly and plainely, though to the great blemish of his perfection, and worthines; which, I assure my self, was farre greater then any memory or witt of man can discribe or record so exactlie in paper as he daily practised the same. And though I cannot note all, yet least all shold be forgotten, so manie notable things buried in oblivion, and so worthy a man so greatly wronged, as to be remembred by none, I have thought it a charitable duty to so noble a Counsellor, to comitt the truth to memorie of posterity, which is so certeine and well knowne to the world, as fame will ever remembre though all the world strive to suppressse it. And so leaving his soule with God, his fame to the world, and the truth to all charitable myndes, I leave the sentence to all judicious Christians, who truly practising that they professe, will better approve, and more indifferentlie interpret it, then envie or mallice can disprove it. The best sort will ever doe right, the worst can but imagine mischeif and doe wrong; yet this is a comfort, the more his vertues are troden downe, the more will their brightnes appeare. *Virtus vulnerata virescit.*

From what has been said, it's left to the reader's judgment, whether *England* ever produc'd a more able Statesman, or greater Patriot; and yet in those times (such is the fate of Ministers in power) there were some, who from their own ambitious designs, envied him the favour of his royal Mistress, which he acquir'd by his profound knowledge, inviolable integrity, and superior merits.

Not long before his death, his Lordship was desirous of leaving his Queen and Country in perfect peace and tranquillity, to which end he endeavour'd to bring about an accommodation with the King of *Spain*; but in this he was oppos'd by the Earl of *Essex*, and the swordsmen his adherents, who (as ^a *Camden* has observ'd) *labour'd hard against any motions for peace, and stiffly urg'd the impossibility of making any honourable treaty with Spain, or indeed any terms, but what they would break, upon these and the like suggestions.* “ That the *Spaniards* were a subtle and enter-
 “ prizing people, and very ambitious of ex-
 “ tending their Empire; that they bore a
 “ most inveterate aversion to *England*, and
 “ profess'd a Religion quite contrary to it;
 “ that the Pope's dispensing power was unli-
 “ mited, and that *Axiom* generally espous'd,
 “ *Faith is not to be kept with Hereticks.*

^a Life and
 reign of Q.
 Elizabeth,
 in Hist. of
 England,
 p. 608.

“ These

“ These arguments, and the apprehension
 “ of future dangers and inconveniencies, he
 “ much insisted on, insomuch that the Lord
 “ Treasurer was provok’d to say, *That he*
 “ *seemed intent upon nothing but blood and*
 “ *slaughter.* And after a very warm debate
 “ upon this point, he took out a prayer book,
 “ and without using any words, pointed to
 “ this passage, *Men of blood shall not live out*
 “ *half their days.*

Some however there were who approv’d
 Essex’s measures, as conceiving he was principally concern’d for the honour and welfare of his countrey. His Lordship therefore to silence these men^b, wrote a formal kind of defence,^{b Camden Præd.} wherein he exhibited such weighty arguments to support his opinion for a peace, as convinc’d all dispassionate men. And tho’ they produc’d not the desir’d effect, yet whilst his Lordship lay sick^c, by his provident conduct,^{c Ibid. p. 610.} a treaty was set on foot with the States of *Holland*, whereby the Queen was eas’d of a yearly expence, no less than 120,000 *l. English.*

But in the midst of these discontents (to use Camden’s words) died *William Cecil*, Lord *Burleigh*, Lord-high-treasurer of *England*, having exhausted himself with study, and the necessary fatigue of his imployment, so that growing old, and being troubled with the Gout, he requested the Queen’s leave to lay down his place. Upon the receipt of his letter, she

was

was pleas'd to pay him some visits, and support him with the most kind and encouraging expressions. However he resign'd his soul to God in a very few days, after he had lived long enough to answer the demands of nature, and reputation, and every thing but the expectation of his countrey. He left the world so fairly, that the greatest enemy he had, freely declar'd he envy'd him nothing, but that his Sun went down with so much lustre; whereas generally, publick Ministers are not blessed with such calm and fortunate periods. He was, without doubt, an extraordinary person, so liberally furnish'd by nature, (to say nothing of his presence and aspect, which had a commanding sweetness in them) and so handsomely improved by learning and education, that he had few or no superiors as to the several qualifications of probity and prudence, industry, temperance and justice. He had besides these accomplishments, an easy and flowing eloquence, which consisted not in a pomp and ostentation of words, but in a masculine plainness and significancy of sense. He was master of a prudence form'd upon experience, and regulated by temper and moderation; then for his loyalty, 'twas true and would endure the touch, and was only exceeded by his piety, which indeed was eminently great. To sum up his character in little; the Queen was blessed in so worthy a Minister; and the Kingdom indebted

ed to his memory for the happy influence of his ministry. Perhaps future ages may be curious to know the place of his nativity, which was at *Bourn* in *Lincolnshire*, *Ann.* 1521. His father was *Richard Cecil* of the family of *Alteryannis*, which belong'd to King *Henry* the Eighth's Wardrobe. His Mother's name was *Jane*; she was an heiress of the honourable family of *Ekinton*, and of the *Walcots*.

In his younger days he was a student at *St. John's College* in *Cambridge*, where at twenty years of age he married *Mary*, the Sister of *Sir John Cheek*, a Gentleman of known learning, and buried her in a year or two; after which having studied the law for a year or two at *Grays-Inn* in *London*, he married *Mildred* the Daughter of *Sir Anthony Cook*, who was preceptor to *Edward VI.* She was a woman very well versed in the *Latin* and *Greek* tongues. Being admitted into the Duke of *Somerset's* family, who was Protector of *England*, he was made his Master of Requests, being the first, as himself told me, who wore that title in *England*: Shortly after he was Secretary to King *Edward VI.* and received from him the honour of Knighthood. Upon his opposing the pretended conveyance of the Crown from the Ladies *Mary* and *Elizabeth*, he got into favour with the former, though he was in the number of those that subscribed it; and his dextrous management preferred him

him to a perfect intimacy with Cardinal *Pool*, *Tonstall*, and Sir *William Peter*. But whereas he had a real and hearty veneration for the Protestant Religion, (however he might humour the present occasions) and finding the road to preferment lay quite another way, he made his court to the Lady *Elizabeth*, who made use of him as a necessary Instrument, whilst she was a private person, and when she came to the throne, advanced him to be her Secretary, and a Privy Counsellor, and after the death of Sir *Thomas Parry*, made him master of the Wards in the third year of her reign ; which office he discharged, as he did all others, like a good husband for the Queen and the Wards, very modestly in respect to his private advantages, and not unprofitably for his followers and dependants, though without the least blemish upon his integrity ; so that the Queen did so far rely upon the prudence of his conduct, as in a manner to lay the whole weight of the Government upon his shoulders. His great interest with the Queen, and a plentiful estate beside, drew upon him the envy of some of the Nobility, which, he used to say, was sooner overcome by giving way, than making opposition against it. The Queen having had a thirteen years experience of his prudence and loyalty was pleased to honour him with the title of Baron *Burleigh*, and then to make him Lord-high-treasurer of *England*: in which
post

post he considerably augmented the publick purse, and his own private estate, though he abhorred the base and corrupt methods of scraping up money; for indeed he seldom or never suffer'd any thing to be expended, but for her Majesty's honour, the security of the Nation, or the support of some neighbouring Allies.

He had a strict eye upon the farmers of the customs, but without harshness or pedantry. He used to say, *That he never cared to see the treasury swell like a disorder'd spleen, when the other parts of the common-wealth were in a consumption.* And he used all possible means (and with good success) to enrich the Queen and the Kingdom by his administration, it being a common expression with him, *That nothing could be for the advantage of a Prince, which makes any way against his reputation.* Wherefore he would never suffer the rents of lands to be raised, nor the old tenants to be put out. The same method he observed as to his own private estate, which he managed with that discretion and probity, that he never sued any man, nor was sued himself. I shall forbear too lavish a commendation of him; but this I may venture to affirm with truth, that he was one of those few who lived and died with a sound and large reputation. Indeed he was in all respects so considerable a person, that I agree with the opinion of the

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ancients

ancients, and conceive a silent admiration of him to be the handsomest character.

He had by his first wife *Mary Cheek*, *Thomas* Earl of *Exeter*, a person remarkably blessed in a numerous issue. By his last wife, *Mildred Coke*, he had *Robert* Earl of *Salisbury* who succeeded him in his most honourable employments, (an happiness which is very rare and unusual) besides two daughters, both of which he out-lived, viz. *Anne* Countess of *Oxford*, who had three daughters, *Elizabeth* wife to *William* Earl of *Darby*, *Bridget* married to the Lord *Norris*, and *Susan* wife to *Philip* Earl of *Montgomery*, as likewise *Elizabeth* married to *William Wentworth*, who had no children. He made his Executors *Gabriel Goodman* Dean of *Winchester*, a very reverend and worthy person; and *Thomas Belot*, his domestick steward, to whom he left a large sum to be distributed in charitable uses which was very faithfully performed. The preamble of his last Will, &c. is as follows.

The

The Testament of me *William Cecill*,
 Knighte of the Order of the Garter, Lord
Burleighe, &c. begonne in *anno millesimo quingentesimo & septuagesimo nono*, and
 revisited manie tymes after; and nowe
 perfected for this tyme the 25th of *July*
 1583, and newlie revisited 26th of *July*
 1586, and newe reviewed 28th of *Octo-*
ber 1588, the thirteth yeare of *Queene*
Elizabeth. And now reformed 20th of
Februarie 1589, 32 *Elizabeth*. And now
 reviewed the firste of *November* 1591, and
 the 32^d yeare of *Queene Elizabeth*. And
 now reviewed the firste of *November*
 1591, and the 32^d yeare of *Queene Eli-*
zabeth. And now reviewed the 20th of
November 1593, the 36th yeare of the
 faide *Queenes* raigne, and now reviewed
 and altered *mensē Augusti* 1595; *anno re-*
gine 37. And nowe renewed *primo Mar-*
tij millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo septi-
mo. Anno quadringesimo regine Elizabethē.

CONsidering I have bene by the goodnes of
 almighty God created and made a rea-
 sonable creature of bodie, and soule, and
 thereby ordained to serve him as my creator
 and maker, and borne also of christian parents,
 and christened in the name of the Father,
 the Sonne, and the Holy Ghost, in the moneth

of *September* the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred twentie, in the church of *Bourne* in the countie of *Lincolne*; and consequentlie by order of my good parentes broughte up and instructed in my younge yeares; after that I did come to the yeares of discretion to have knowledge of the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christe, the knowledge whereof begonne aboute that tyme to be more clearelie revealed here in *Englande* then it had bene manie yeares before, beinge thereby taughte that there was no other meanes of salvation of my soule, but by the passion, death and resurrection of Christe Jesus the sonne of God, in whom I as oughte so I doe put my whole confidence and trust, and do desier the assistance of his holie spiritte to have grace dureinge this fraile lise to continue in that minde, and to have a desier to obey his will and commaundementes in liveing religiouslie and vertuouslie as farre forth as the infirmitie of my fleshe will suffer; whereunto addinge the consideration of the certaintie of the worldlie death of my bodie, which is inevitable though I am uncertaine of the manner, hower and place, and yet beinge by increase of yeares, and of other infirmities of my body growen for a great parte by continuall publique services thereby necessarilie induced to looke shortlie by order of nature for my worldlie ende; and knoweing also that whatsoever
worldlie

worldlie and earthlie giftes it hath pleased almighty God to have given or rather lente unto me, I must by death leave them all to the worlde; and whatsoever godlie and spirituall graces hath bene by God's favour bestowed uppon me I hope certainelie by his goodnes and mercies (though my bodie shall be committed to earthe) to enjoy the fruits thereof in Heaven by the meare goodnes of almighty God after this mortal liefse, if I shall use and dispose them in this liefse to God's glorie, acknowledging them to have proceded onelie of his meere goodnes, and that more plentifully bestowed uppon me then upon manie others: Uppon all these and manie other like considerations, beinge at this time occupied with the cogitation of my mortallitie, and yet of whole minde and memorie for the which I humble thancke almighty God; I doe determine, and manie tymes heretofore I have done, to declare my last Will and Testament in wrightinge concerninge the disposition of my landes and goods which are worldlie; what my minde is therein, and to whome I will and desier that the same maie remaine after my decease, in such sorte as by the lawes of this Realme, I maye doe, and as I hope shall not offende God the giver of them all to me, consideringe as it is in the Psalme, *Cælum cæli domino, terram dedit filiis hominum.* And therefore this present first of Marche one thousand five hundred
ninetie

ninētie seaven, and in the yeare of *Queen Elizabeth* my dear soveraigne Ladie the forteth, I do revoke all my former Willes in wrighting, which have been manie, and have been altered as occasions have moved me from the year one thousand five hundred seaventy nine; or from anie tyme before, and do meane, that none shall from this daie forward be of anie force but this now written, and that which shall from tyme to tyme hereafter be added hereunto. In the name therefore of almighty God; *I William Cecill*, Knighte of the Order of the Garter, Baron of *Burleighe*, and Treasurer of *England*, doe most humbly commend my soule both now presentlie (and so I pray God that I may doe the same when God shall separate it from my bodie) into the handes and protection of the sonne of God *Jesus Christe*, the onely mediator betwixt God and Man, to be presentd and placed in Heaven by the same *Christe* my onely saviour and redeemer, there to have the fruition of the joye therefore prepared, till the last daie that my bodie shall be raised from the earthe to be joynd with my soule; and from thenceforth to enjoye such immortall blessednes as no earthlie tounge or harte can expresse or containe. And my bodie I leave to the worlde to be buried in comelie sorte in respect of the firme hope I have of the resurrection thereof at the last daie. And for that I trust God hath of his
mercies

mercie permitted it to be here in earthe a liveinge temple for the service of him ; I doe ask mercie of God for that I have not had due reguarde in the keepeinge of it as a cleane vessell for the Holie Ghoste, which mercie I firmelie hope God will for his Sonne's sake Jesus Christe graunte to me as he hath promised. And for the buriall of my bodie ; because before the tymes of the wrightinge hereof, I have alreadie caused a place in St. *Martin's* church in *Stamford Barone* in the countie of *Northampton*, wherein my house of *Burleigh* is scituated, to be made fitt for a buriall place for the bodies of my grandfather, father and mother and myselfe, and others that maie succede me : I doe desier my Executors, or such as I shall in this my Will name, to take the charge of my buriall, to cause my bodie to be buried there ; otherwise I will have it to be buried by their discretion with the licence of the Deane and Chapter in the collegiat church of *Westminster* neare where the bodies of my wife and my daughter of *Oxford* are buried. And I will if my bodie shalbe carried to be buried at *Stamford Baron*, that it be carried without anie pompe to my house of *Burleigh* in some coache covered with blacke, accompanied onelie with twelve personnes and noe more, whereof fouer to be gentlemen and the rest yeomen and groomes, for avoidinge of an unnecessary charge in a longe

longe carriage of a deade carcasſe. And that there be given fortie ſhillings to everie pariſhe church for the poore where my corps ſhall remaine everie night, untill it ſhalbe brought to my houſe of *Burleighe*, from whence it ſhalbe decentlie carried to *St. Martin's* church in *Stamforde*. And yet in hope of affured reſurrection I will that ſuch as I ſhall hereafter name ſhall burie it with convenient comelines according to the degree of a Baron and a Lord of parliament, and that the coſts all manner of waies exceede not one thouſande poundes, whereof one hundred poundes to be diſpoſed at the tymes of the funerall to charitable uſes; which thouſand poundes ſhall be delivered by *Thomas Bellott* to ſuch perſones as my ſonnes ſhall name and authorize therewith to defraie the charges. I deſier to be buried by the direction of my two ſonnes. *Item*, For diſcharginge of my debts that maie be demanded of my Executors; I doe will and deviſe, that to my Executors my mannor of *Newtonkine* in the countie of *Yorke* to be ſold by them, if otherwiſe the value of my goodes will not ſuffice to the payment of my debtes. And if the monie thereof groweing ſhall not ſatiſfie the ſame, then to ſupplie the wante thereof, I will that my ſaide Executors ſhall have and take the yearelie proffits of all my mannors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in the partes of *Lindſey* and *Holland* in the
countie

countie of *Lincolne*, not being otherwise graunted awaie from my heires; to have and receive the same untill by the yearelie proffitts thereof my said debtes shalbe fullie therewith satisfied, saveinge, I will not that my Executors shall by vertue of this my devise, make faile of anie my greate woodes being above one and twentie yeares groweth within the saide partes of *Lindsey* or *Hollande*, for that I will the same greate wooddes shall remaine to my heires: And yet I will that my saide Executors shall not by authoritie hereof recieve from tyme to tyme anie more then they shall by good prooffe shewe that the same is by them paide for anie my debtes. Nowe for the disposition of all my leases: I doe will and give unto my sonne Sir *Robert Cecill* all and everie my leases and estate for yeares, which I have, hold, or ought to enjoye in the counties of *Hartforde*, and *Enfeilde* in the countie of *Middlesex*, or either of them, for and during all the yeares or interests therein mentioned or comprised, if he doe so longe live. And also all the use of all other leases which anie personne or personnes hath in trust or by mine appointment or nomination, in the saide counties of *Hartford*, or *Enfeilde* in *Middlesex*; and if there shalbe anie number of yeres remayning unexpired at the death of my saide sonne; then I will the same shall remaine to such personnes as shall be owner

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by waie of inheritance of my house at *Theobaldes* in the countie of *Hartforde*, dureing the terms in the faide several leases thereof comprised. And for my leases in the counties of *Northampton*, *Lincolne*, and *Rutlande*, which shall remaine in my possession (except such as shalbe hereafter otherwise devised;) I will the same shall remaine to my sonne *Thomas Cecill*, or to such of my heires as shal be seised of anie estate of inheritance or freehold of my house of *Burleigh* in the countie of *Northampton*, dureinge all the tearme of yeares therein comprised. And I give to my sister *Anne White* all the interest that I have in lease and terme of yeeres of and in all that farme, landes, tenements, and hereditamentes in *Woodbeade*, and in the manor of *Casterton*, and in the pastures of *Pickeworthe* in the countie of *Rutland*, for and dureinge all the yeares yet to come in the same, if she so long doe live. And after her death, I will that such of her children shall have the same as she shall nominate and appointe by her last Will or otherwise. And for my moveable goodes, I will that all my plate usually used in the Courte, and all other my goodes and chamber-stuff usuallie used in the Courte, and all other my goodes and chamber-stuffe usualie there occupied at the Courte, shall remaine and be to my faide sonne Sir *Robert Cecill*, to whom I give the same, and appointe him
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to be my Executor for that legacie. And foe I give to my faide sonne Sir *Robert Cecill*, and to the Ladie *Bridgett* and Ladie *Suzan Veare*, the daughters of my deceased daughter the Ladie *Anne* Countesse of *Oxford*, all my goodes, monie, plate and stuff, that are or shall be remayneing at my deathe within my bedchamber at *Westminster*, and in my two closetts, and any chambers thereto adjoyneing, and extending to the lodgings of the faide *Robert Cecill* at my dwellinge house called *Cecill* or *Burley-House* in *Westminster*. All which stufte, plate, and monie, I will shalbe devided by my servaunte *Thomas Bellott* and the Deane of *Westminster* equallie into three partes betwixt my faide sonne *Robert Cecill* and the faide two Ladies. And that the same be delivered for the faide two younge Ladies by the order of my daughter Countesse of *Darbie*, the Ladie *Dennie*, and my sister *White*, and my Steward *Thomas Bellott*, or by anie two of them. Savinge I will that the value of one thowfandepowndes shalbe delivered to the Countesse of *Derby*, and one other thowfand powndes of the faide plate and monie shal be severed and delivered to my sonnes Sir *Thomas* and Sir *Robert Cecill* for the charges of my buriall. But yet I doe excepte oute of this graunte all the gold plate which shal be founde in my faide studdies which hereafter here in this Will I will limytte and

dispose. And I will that noe parte of the faide plate and monie shalbe vewed, feized, or valued but by my servaunte *Thomas Belotte*, to whome I committ the trust to deliver the same as here is limited. And touching my plate in my plate house, or in anie other parte of my faide house called *Burghley-house*, savinge my faide bedchamber and the two closetts thereto adjoyneinge, I will the moyte of the same plate shall remayne to my sonne Sir *Thomas* as a legacie to him, with my house, with condition there shalbe firste taken out of all the whole quantitie of my faide plate house the parcells hereafter named. And then my sonne *Thomas Cecill* to have the moite of all the rest of that moitye. All which parcells my meaninge is to be delivered to the same personnes before my bodie shalbe buried. To my sifter in lawe the Ladie *Russell*, in guilte plate, the value of five hundred ounces. To my sifter *Anne White* three hundred ounces. To my sifter *Elizabeth Allington* two hundred ounces. To my sifter *Margaret Smythe* two hundred ounces. To my nephewe *Robert Wingfelde* three hundred ounces. To my daughter in lawe the Ladie *Cecill* Sir *Thomas Cecill's* wiefe three hundred ounces. To *William Cecill* eldest sonne of my sonne Sir *Thomas Cecill* and to his wife three hundred ounces. To the Lad *Rosse* two hundred ounces. To *Lucy* the Ladie *St. John*
two

two hundred ounces. To *William Pawlett* the *Ladie St. John's* sonne two hundred ounces. To *Thomas Pawlett* his brother one hundred ounces. To the *Ladie Dennie* two hundred ounces. To the youngest daughter of my sonne *Sir Thomas Cecill* one hundred and fiftie ounces. To my sister in lawe the *Ladie Bacon* one hundred ounces. To the *Ladie Reade* one hundred ounces. To the *Ladie Hatton* two hundred ounces. To my daughter *Mistres Alington* one hundred ounces. To *William Cecill* sonne to *Sir Robert Cecill* three hundred ounces. To his sister *Fraunces Cecill* two hundred ounces. To everie of the younger sonnes of my sonne *Thomas Cecill* fiftie ounces. To my nephewe *Cecill Cave* that serveth me one hundred ounces. To my neice *Elizabeth Welbie* fixtie ounces. To *Elizabeth Cecill* my goddaughter daughter of *William Cecill* one hundred ounces. Item, I will that after the said severall portions of plate before devised being chosen out and severed, all the rest of my plate at *Westminster*, not before given or limited, and such as is before limited to personnes that shall happen to die before me, shall be duellie gathered, wayed, and valued by order of my faide servante *Thomas Bellotte*, with the assistance and in presence of the Wardens of the Goldsmithes in *London*. And shalbe divided into two equall partes, whereof I do give one halfe parte as above is mentioned

mentioned to my sonne Sir *Thomas Cecill* my heire apparant. And further, I will, and my meaning is, that the other moitie not given to my sonne *Thomas Cecill*, nor charged with the particular legacies above mentioned, shall be divided into fouer equall partes; whereof I give to my sonne Sir *Robert Cecill* one fouerth parte; and to the Ladie *Elizabeth Veare*, nowe Countesse of *Derbie*, one other fouerth parte; and to the Ladie *Bridgett Veare* one other fouerth parte; and to the Ladie *Suzan Veare* one other fouerth parte: And if anie of the saide three Ladies shall die before me, then I will that the survivors of them shall have the portions equallie divided amongst them. And because there shalbe no contention for the choise of anie portion of my plate, saveinge for such as shalbe knowen usuallie to be occupied in my chambers at the Courte, or in my bedchambers and two studdies above recited, which before I had devised to my sonne Sir *Robert Cecill* and the two younge Ladies, I will that either of my saide two sonnes shall name to honest Goldsmithes, with the consent of the said *Thomas Bellotte*, to weighe and devide the same indifferentlie, accordinge to my true meaning herein expressed. And if they two and *Thomas Bellott* shall not agree, then the same to be done by the Master and Wardens of the companie of Goldsmithes in *London*, or two of them, to be required there-
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to by my Steward *Thomas Bellotte*, beinge best acquainted therewith, they takeing for their paines some peece of plate of the quantitie of fortie ounzes. *Item*, I give to my saide sonne Sir *Thomas Cecill* all my household stufte and furniture of household in *Burghley-house* in *Westminster*, excepting what otherways bequeathed. To his sonne *Thomas* his best greatest collar, with the *George* appendant. To his sonne *Robert* the second great collar, and anie other chaine with a *George*, and anie one of his best garters, onlie to remaine with him as a memorie to him and his sonnes sonnes of the honor I had to be one of the Noble Order of the Garter. His son *Thomas* to have all the rest belonging to the Order. To the Ladie *Bridgett Veare* and *Susan Veare* all manner of plate, stufte, and furniture of household in the chambers, schoole-houses, and nurseries, where they doe usuallie lodge or lie, both in my house at *Westminster* and at *Theobalds*, with all such plate, as potts, bouls, plates, salt, linnen, spoones, and beddinge, and other utensills commonly occupied for their lodgings; the same to be chosen out for them by his sister *White* and *Thomas Bellotte*. To his son Sir *Robert Cecill* his household stuff and furniture at *Theobalds*, with the plate reserved onlie there for his private use, saveinge such stufte as the young Ladies have had in their lodgings, and exceptinge all linnen chested

to serve on the *Queenes* accessse to his house, and excepting all other plate there kept in store, to serve for accessse of strangers to his house; all which plate, besides the lynnens so chested, he gives to his two daughters the *Ladie Bridget* and *Suzan Veare*. And for the *Lynnen* so chested, to his sonne *Sir Robert Cecill*, to be by him left to his daughter *Fraunces Cecill*. To the two *Ladies Bridget* and *Susan*, all his household stuff at the Lodge at *Cheeshunt Parke*, and if the same shall not be furnished at his death, then the said Lodge to be furnished from the house at *Theobalds*. To the *Ladies Bridget* and *Suzan*, the choise by them to be made, with the advise of the *Ladie of Derby*, or his sister *White*, their aunte, of anie two bedds, or stuffe for the same bedding, with pallett thereto belonginge, cupborde, carpet, stooles and chaires, that shall be in any chamber at *Theobalds*. He gives all his books in his upper librarie over his great chamber in his house at *Westminster* to *Sir Thomas Cecil* his son, and all evidences and rolls belonging to his pedegrees, his son *Robert* to have the use of them for two or three months to take copies; and for all such books and writings, saving evidences for Lands as shall be in his bed-chamber, pallett-chambers, or chambers used for suitors, or in his study over the porche, he gives unto his son *Sir Robert Cecill*, with all writings concerning the *Queen*. Furthermore, whereas there was
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an estate made in King *Hen. VIII.* time by his Father *Richard Cecill*, Esq; to him and his second wife *Mildred*, and to the heirs of their bodys of the Manor and Castle of *Esfendon* in *Co. Rutland*, the remainder to him and his heirs. And whereas his son *Robert* was begotten on the body of the said *Mildred*, he gives the same to the said *Robert*, and the heirs of his body; remainder to the heirs of the body of his sister the Countess of *Oxford*: And whereas there is belonging to the said Manor a large Wood call'd *Esfenden Parke*, which is esteemed to be scituate for the greater part in *Co. Lincoln*, he gives the same to Sir *Robert Cecill* and the heirs of his body; remainder to the children of the Countess of *Oxford*, and the heirs of their bodys; remainder to his right heirs. He confirms all conveyances made in favour of his son Sir *Robert Cecill* of Lands in the Countys of *Hertford* and *Essex*, and in the Parishes of *Edmonton*, *Enfield*, and *Totnam* in *Co. Middlesex*, to him and the heirs of his body. And he wills that all other his Lands in the Countye of *Hartforde*, and Parishes aforesaid, and the Manor of *Esfingdon* and the Park limited, to his son *Robert Cecill*; and such other Lands as he purchased for the three young Ladies, daughters of the Countess of *Oxford*, shall remain to *Thomas* his son, and the heirs of his body. To Sir *Robert Cecill* his son, for life, all writings concerning his Estates

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in *Co. Middlesex* and *Hertford*. He wills that his Executors shall within one month after his decease, give to the collectors for the poor in the Parishes of *St. Clements*, the *Savoy*, *St. Martins* in *Westminster*, and in the Parishes of *Chestbunt* and *St. Martins Stamford*, for every Parish ten pounds; to the prison of the *Gatehouse* ten pounds; to the prisoners in *Newgate* and *Ludgate*, twenty marks betwixt them. *Item*, To the two Ladys *Bridget* and *Susan*, the choise of any of his Coaches, and of any two of his Coach-horses, with all the furniture thereto belonging; and the choise of any four horses or geldings either in his Stable, or in any Park or Pasture. To his son Sir *Thomas Cecill*, the choise of anie two of his Stone-horses; and to his son Sir *Robert*, the choise of anie other two stoned Horses next, and all the rest to be equallie devided betwixte them; saving I give to *Tho. Bellott* any two of my Horses or Geldinges, with his furniture to be chosen next, after the choise made for two for everie of the Ladies *Bridget* and *Susan*. To *Hen. Maynarde*, *Walter Cope*, and *Robert Carre*, his servants, and tenants of several houses in *Westminster*, who have laid out much in repairs, he wills that everie of them have an estate in the said houses for their respective lives, and three years after, at the accustomed rents, to his son *Tho. Cecill*, and his heires. He wills that all servants that serve him at *Westminster*,

minster, Theobalds, or the Court, at the time of his death, and receive yearly wages, shall have yearlie paid them their ordinarie wages for the space of two whole years after his decease, to be paid at the usual time; and if anie of them, at the request of anie his sonnes or two young Ladies, continue in the service of any of them, nevertheless he wills that they receive the said bequest. Also every person that has served him, four years wages; such as have served him in his houses and received wages, and lodge in his houses, shall have in rewarde for their services the whole furniture of their bedding wherein they did lie, and the sum of fortie shillings in gold. To every of them that have served as a Gentleman, to have also a piece of plate of the value betwixt three and four pounds. I will to every of my servants attending on me in my bedchamber, besides their limited wages, the said wages yearly for four years, and a piece of plate of the value of thirty ounces. That his son *Thomas* shall not take possession of his house in *Westminster* during the space of six weeks after his decease, during which time, *Tbo. Bellot*, as his executor, shall keep his household there with meat drink and lodging for the Ladies, as hath bene used in his absence, within which tyme there may be order taken where the two Ladies shall remaine, who shall have a revenue parte in *Essex*, and part in *Lincoln* and

Leiceſterſhire, to maintaine them for their apparell and diett, and the two *Parwletts* to be delivered to their grandfather Sir *Tho. Cecill*. *Item*, to his ſiſter *Anne White*, widow, 20 *l.* per *Ann.* for life payable out of the farm of *Nuttingbarnes* in *Co. Middleſex.* To *Tho. Bellotte* 20 *l.* per *Ann.* for life payable out of the ſaid farme. To *John Clapham* his ſervant, 6 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *l.* for life, payable out of the ſaid farme. *Item*, Whereas *Tho. Bellotte* hath in his charge in his plate houſe, ſums of mony, and ſome bonds for monie to be paid, he committs ſo much truſt to him, and requires him to make *Dr. Gabriel Goodman*, Dean of *Weſtminſter*, privy thereto, and makes them two Executors, and to diſpoſe of the ſame mony to the advancement of the Ladies *Bridget* and *Suzan* for their marriages, with theſe conditions, that which of them ſhall be married with an Earl, or the heire apparent of an Earl, ſhall have 4000 *l.* part of the mony left; and if they ſhall marry with a Baron, or the heir apparent of a Baron, then but 3000 *l.* and if under that degree, then but 2000 *l.* *Item*, After all expences and charge defray'd, the reſidue of the mony to be divided in two parts, the one half to be paid to the Lady *Elizabeth* Counteſs of *Darbie*, and her two ſiſters, and the other moitie to be given to ſuch godlie uſes as his Executors ſhall think good. That all his gold plate be duely weighed by order of his Executors.

ccutors. That his sons Sir *Thomas Cecill*, and Sir *Robert Cecill*, shall have the half thereof, and the other half to be given to his three daughters, the Countess of *Darbie*, the Lady *Bridget*, and the Lady *Susan*, so that there be given to his sister *White* one peice of thirty or forty ounces. He gives to his Executor *Tho. Ballotte* for his pains, the yearly profits of his farme or manor of *Nuttingbarnes*, to hold the same during his life, paying out of the same such annuitys as by a codicill shall be limited to his old servants. To the Dean of *Westminster*, the yearly profits of all his lands belonging to the *Neate* near *Westminster*, now occupied by him. And appoints the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, the Lord Keeper, and Justice *Owen*, overseers of his Will, and gives to each of them a peice of gold plate to the weight of 30 ounces.

Sign'd *W. BURGHLEY.*

Probat. 13 Nov. 1598.

Stow in his annals * gives this account: * *Pag.* 143.
 " On the 4th of *August* Sir *William Cecil*,
 " Knight of the Order, Lord *Burghley*, Ma-
 " ster of the Wards and Liveries, High Trea-
 " surer of *England*, a famous Councillor to
 " the Queen's Majesty all her Reign, and like-
 " wise had been to *Edward* the sixt, who for
 " his singular wisdom was renowned through-
 " out all *Europe*, departed this mortal life at
 " his,

“ his house by the *Strand*, and his body was
 “ conveyed to *Westminster* with solemn fune-
 “ ral; and from thence secretly to *Stamford*,
 “ and there buried amongst his Ancestors; and
 “ the following epitaph is on his monument:

Deo opt. maximo & memoriæ sacrum honoratissimus & longè clarissimus D. Gulielmus Cecilius, Baro de Burgleigh, summus Angliæ Thesaurarius, curiæ pupillorum præfectus, Georgiani ordinis eques auratus; serenissimæ Elizabethæ Angliæ, &c. Reginae à sanctioribus Consiliis, & Academiæ Cantabrigiensi Cancellarius, sub hoc tumulo, secundum Christi adventum manet.

Qui ob eximias animi dotes, primum à secretis fuit Edwardo sexto, Angliæ Regi: deinde Reginae Elizabethæ, sub quâ in maximis & gravissimis hujus Regni causis spectatus, & imprimis probatus; veram Religionem promovendo, concilio, æquitate, constantia, magnisque in Rempub. meritis, honores consecutus summos, cum naturæ & gloriæ satis, patriæ autem parum vixisset, placide in Christo obdormivit.

Uxores habuit duas; Mariam sororem Johannis Cheeke equitis aurati; e qua genuit filium unicum Thomam nunc Baronem de Burghley, & Mildredam filiam Antonii Cooke equitis aurati, quæ illi peperit Robertum Cecilium equitem auratum Reginae Elizabethæ à se-

*à secretis, & curiæ pupillorum præfectum;
Annam enuptam Edwardo Comiti Oxoniæ;
& Elizabetham Gulielmo Wentworth, filio
primogenito Baronis Wentworth.*

His eldest son was *Thomas* Earl of *Exeter*, Knight of the most noble order of the Garter, an honorable and faithful subject both to *Queen Elizabeth*, and King *James*, and a true patriot to his country; from whom is lineally descended the right honorable *Brownlow* now Earl of *Exeter*; and from his younger son *Robert* Earl of *Salisbury*, the present Earl of that name.

Which *Robert* Earl of *Salisbury*, was likewise one of the greatest Statesmen of his time, being in favour and power, both with *Queen Elizabeth* and King *James* the first. His character is given us by the celebrated pen of *Thomas Sackvill* Earl of *Dorset*, Lord High Treasurer of *England* in those Reigns, who from the great value he had for that noble Earl, bequeathed a legacy to him by his last Will and Testament, in these words.

“ Also to my singular good Lord, my most
“ special and dearest freind the Earl of *Salisbu-*
“ ry, one cheyne of Gold, of open Spanish
“ work, enamell’d with divers colours, and
“ containing fifty one several peices of three
“ several forts, whereof thirteen peices being
“ of the biggest sort oval fashion, hang in the
“ cheyne

E Reg^{ro}. vo-
cat Dorset.
qu. 1. N^o.
113. in Cur.
de Arcub.
Archiepisc.
Cant.

“ cheyne longwise ; and other thirteen peices,
 “ being of a lesser sort, hang in the cheyne
 “ cross ovalwise, and twenty five other peices,
 “ of the least sort, made to hold and knitt toge-
 “ ther, the two other sorts of oval fashion do all
 “ together, make the form of a fair cheyne with
 “ a George on both sides, pendant to the same,
 “ and set on each side thereof with three rubies
 “ and twelve diamonds; and likewise a garter
 “ of purple velvet, with two cheynes of gold
 “ on each side, and divers letters of gold ena-
 “ mell’d white, set with twelve diamonds, and
 “ one great diamond in the midst of the
 “ buckle: And one ring enamell’d black, set
 “ with a fair great diamond rising slope to a
 “ little table in the top; and one ring of gold
 “ enamell’d white, set with a fair table rubie;
 “ and one ring of gold likewise enamell’d
 “ white, is set with claws of gold, and a fair
 “ rock rubie; and one ring of gold enamell’d
 “ black, wherein is set, with claws of gold, a
 “ rare opal, fashioned like a heart; desiring
 “ his Lordship (as his own words are) to weare
 “ them and keepe them as faithfull memoryes
 “ of my most hartie love unto him; beyng
 “ most assured, that his Lordshippe, according
 “ to the noblenes of his owne nature, and the
 “ sincere meritt of my true harte towards
 “ hym, which allwayes hathe ben, is, and e-
 “ ver will be, so longe as life endureth, as
 “ firmlie and as trulie devoted and knitt unto
 “ hym, as yt is possible for one frende to be
 “ unto

“ unto another: With which faithfull bond,
“ the heavenlie God doth knowe, I have felt
“ my hart theise many yeres fast tyed unto
“ hym, not onlie in respect of those privat,
“ particular benefittes and favoures, which he
“ so often and so amply hath shewed, both to-
“ wardes me and myne (wherein me selfe
“ likewise neither hath, nor will be founde so
“ ingratefull either unto hym or any other, as
“ not to seeke, to the best of my power, ever
“ with all kyndnes and thankfullnes, to re-
“ quite the same agayne): But also, and most
“ chiefeleie, even in regarde of his publique
“ meritt, both towardes his Majestie and this
“ Common-wealthe. Wherein, when I be-
“ hould the heavie weighte of so many grave
“ and greate affaires, which the special dutie
“ of his place, as principall Secretarie, doth
“ daylie and necessarilie cast upon hym; and
“ do noate withall, what infinite cares, crosses,
“ laboures, and travells of body and minde,
“ he dothe thereby contynewallie susteyne and
“ undergoe; and lastly, do see with how
“ greate dexteritie, sinceritie and judgment he
“ dothe accomlishe and performe the pain-
“ full service of that place: Theise divine
“ vertues of his, so incessantlie exercised and
“ employed for the good of the publique, I
“ must confesse have made me long since so
“ greatlie to love, honour, and esteem hym,
“ and so firmelie and faithfullie fixed my harte

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unto

“ unto him, as I do daylie and hartelie praye
“ unto almightie God, to contynewe all
“ strengthe and abilitie, both of bodie and
“ mynde in hym, that he syncke not under the
“ weighte of so heaueie a burden; and that the
“ Kinge’s Majestie, in him, may many yeres
“ enjoye the fruitefull laboures of so worthie a
“ servaunte; and he, in the Kinges Majestie,
“ may long possesse the gracious favoure and
“ love of the most judicious, learned, and rarest
“ Kinge that ever this worlde produced.
“ By the hand of whose royall and prudent direction,
“ and the grave advise of those other
“ wise and faithfull Counsellors to his Highnes,
“ he may help to guyde and steeer the
“ stern of this estate, in the course of safetie
“ and plentiful prosperitie, allwayes keeping
“ and preserving the shipp of this Commonwealth,
“ within the porte and haven of flourishing peace,
“ so often blessed even by God himselfe: And that yt may
“ there rest fast fixed to the sacred anchor of our securitie
“ and quyet, and not uppon the rising of every
“ puff of wynde, to hoise and sayle into those
“ deepe and daungerous seas, surged and bel-
“ lowed with the stormes and tempestes of hellish
“ warre; and where no better effectes are,
“ or can be expected, then contynewall doubtles,
“ perills and feares of many woefull wrackes,
“ miseryes and calamities to fall upon us.
“ Thus I have faithfullie set downe, in some
“ sorte,

" forte, the noble partes of this honorable
 " Earle, whoe besides such his worthines and
 " sufficiency for the publique service, both of
 " his Sovereigne and Countrey, ys also fra-
 " med of so sweete a nature, so full of mild-
 " nefs, courtesy, honest myrthe, bowntie,
 " kyndness, gratitude and discourse, so easly
 " reconcil'd to his foe, and evermore so true
 " unto his freind, as I may justlie saye that
 " were one of the cheifest felicities that in this
 " worlde we can possesse, to live, converse,
 " and spend oure whole life in mutual love
 " and friendship with such a one: Of whose
 " excelling vertues, and sweete conditions so
 " well knownen to me, in respect of our longe
 " communication by so many yeres, in most
 " true love and friendship together, I am de-
 " sirous to leave some faithfull remembrance in
 " this my last Will and Testament; that synce
 " the livinge speeche of my tounge when I am
 " gon from hence, must then cease and speake
 " no more, that yet the livinge speeche of my
 " penne, which never dieth, maye herein thus
 " for ever trulie testifie and declare the same.

I now return to his eldest son *Thomas*, Lord
Burghley and Earl of *Exeter*. He ^a was born ^{a Ex stem-}
 in the year 1542, the 34th year of King *Hen-* ^{mate.}
ry the eighth; and in 5 *Eliz.* was elected to
 Parliament for the Town of *Stamford* in *Lin-*
colnshire ^b, as also in two other Parliaments in ^{b Ex Not.}
 that Reign. In 16 *Eliz.* he went a volunteer ^{Parl. MS.}
 in ^{per Brown}
^{Willis Arg.}

^c Stow's An-
nals, p. 675.

in ^c that expedition into *Scotland*, in aid of the regent of the young King of *Scotts*, when the castle of *Edinburgh* was besieged and taken.

^d Dugdale's
Antiq. of
Warw. p.
168.

In 17 *Eliz.* waiting on the Queen at *Kenilworth* castle in *Warwickshire* ^d, when she was entertain'd by the Earl of *Leicester* with all princely pleasures, her Majesty at that time conferr'd on him the honour of Knighthood.

^e Stow, p.
689.

In 28 *Eliz.* he was one of those illustrious gallants ^e who entertain'd *Francis* of *Valois*, Duke of *Alonson*, heir apparent of *France*, and brother to the *French* King, then in *England* as a suitor to Queen *Elizabeth*; and gain'd honour in the juffs, barriers, and turney perform'd on that occasion. He also distinguisht himself in the wars of the Low

^f Rymer's
Fœdera,
Tom. XVI.
p. 4.

Countries, and ^f was made Governour of the *Brill*, one of the cautionary Towns which the States of *Holland* pledg'd to Queen *Elizabeth*.

^g Ex Notit.
Parl. MS.
per Brown
Willis Arm.

In the 27th of that Reign, he was chose one of the Knights of the Shire for the County of *Lincoln*, ^g as he was in another Parliament; also in the 35th year of Queen *Elizabeth* was chosen for *Northamptonshire*. In the memorable year of the *Spanish* Invasion, 1588, he

^h Stow's An-
nals, 746,
47.

^h with his brother Sir *Robert Cecil*, were both volunteers on board the Fleet, which for six days maintain'd many sharp fights and fierce assaults with the *Spanish* Navy, and at length forc'd them to flie.

In

In 40 *Eliz.* at the funeral of his father the Lord *Burgbley*, ⁱ whose body was deposited in ⁱ *Westminster Abbey* with great solemnity on the 29th of *August*, he was chief mourner, and by her Majesty's order mourn'd as an Earl. The year after he ^k was constituted Warden of ^k *Rockingham* forest, and Constable of the castle there for life; and in 43 *Eliz.* on that insurrection then made by *Robert* Earl of *Essex*, ^l went into the City of *London*, with *Garter* ^l principal King of Arms, and proclaimed him and his adherents traytors, tho' they met with some opposition: And was afterwards one of the commanders of those forces ^m that oblig'd ^m the Earl and his adherents to surrender. Having thus shew'd himself a faithful subject to the Queen, he was elected one of the Knights Companions of the most noble order of the ⁿ *Garter*, and install'd at *Windsor* on the 26th of *May* 1601, 44 *Eliz.*

On the accession of King *James* to the Throne, he was sworn of his Privy Council ^o at the *Charter-house* the fourth day after his arrival in *London*; and was constituted Lord Lieutenant of the County of *Northampton*. And his Majesty in consideration of his great merit and services, created him Earl of *Exeter*, by Letters ^p Patent bearing date the 4th of ^p *May* in the third year of his Reign; which was the first president ^q of any being advanc'd to the title of Earl of the principal City, when another

ⁱ Ex Collect.
Joh. Anstis,
Arm. Gart.
Regis Ar-
morum.

^k Pat. 41
Eliz. p. 7.

^l Hist. of
Engl. Vol. 3.
p. 631.

^m Ibid.
p. 632.

ⁿ E MS.
Tabell. olim
in Capell. S.
Georg.
Windsor,
script. per
T. M. Gen.
^o Stow's An-
nals, p. 824.

^p Pat. 3 Jac.
p. 12.

^q Selden's
Titles of
Honour.

ther had the dignity of Earl of the same county; *Charles Blount* being then Earl of *Devonshire*.

In 6 *Jac.* I. 1610, he was present, and a witness ^r to the patent creating *Henry* the King's eldest son Prince of *Wales*. In 14 *Jac.* I. 1616, he was in commission ^s with other Lords of the Privy Council, to treat with Sir *Noell Caron* K^t. Ambassador from the States General, for the delivery up of the Town of *Vlishinge*, with the Castle of *Ramakers* in *Zeland*, and the Town of *Brill* in *Holland*. In 1618. he was in commission for banishing all *Romish* Jesuits, Seminary Priests, &c. and in 1620, was in a ^v special commission with the Archbishop of *Canterbury* to enquire and put in execution the laws, against all and singular heresies, great errors in matters of faith and religion, schisms, unlawful Conventicles tending to schism against the religion and government of the Church established, with full powers to call before them all persons, &c. As also in another commission ^u the same year with the Archbishop of *York* and others, to execute all manner of ecclesiastical jurisdictions within the province of *York*. His Lordship, about the year 1602, converted part of the old palace at *Lidington* in *Rutlandshire*, ^x formerly belonging to the Bishops of *Lincoln*, into an hospital, for a warden, twelve poor men, and two women, allowing
a com-

^r Rymer,
Vol. XVI.
p. 690.

^s *Ib.* p. 783,
784.

^t Rymer,
Vol. XVII.
p. 93.

^v *Ib.* p. 203.

^u *Ib.* p. 258.

^x Wright's
Rutlandsh.
p. 80, 81.

a competent maintenance for their support. And departing this life on the 7th of *February* 1721-2, was buried in the chapel of *St. John Baptist* in the collegiate church of *St. Peter's* at *Westminster*; where there is a stately monument erected to his memory, of black and white marble finely polished, rais'd above 5 foot from the floor, with the statues of the Earl in his Parliament Robes, Collar, George, and Mantle of the Garter; as also of his Countess in her robes on his right hand; round the verge whereof is curiously engraven this inscription.

Thomas Cecill comes Exeter, Baro de Burleigh, ordinis Garterij Eques, Regi Jacobo à sanctioribus Consilijs, cum charissimis duabus uxoribus ejus, Dorothea Nevill, ex nobili Domini Latimeri familia & una cohæredibus, prima uxore, & Francisca Bridges, ex nobili familia Chandois, secunda uxore, cum firma spe resurrectionis hoc in monumento compositi obdormiunt.

His Lordship by his last wife, had no other issue than one daughter *Sophia-Anna*, buried 15th of *September* 1621; but by the first, one of the coheirs of *John Nevil*, Lord *Latimer*, he had issue five sons ^{y Ex stem-} and eight daughters, ^{mat.} viz. *William* who succeeded him, Sir *Richard Cecil* ancestor to the present Earl of *Exeter*,
Sir

Sir *Edward Cecil* created Viscount *Wimbleton*, *Christopher* drowned in *Germany*, and *Thomas*.

^z Addit. to
the Baronage
of England,
by Sir Wm.
Dugdale and
Gr. King.
MS.

His daughters were these; ^z *Catherine* who died unmarried, *Lucie* wedded to *William* Marquis of *Winchester*, by whom she had issue *John* Marquis of *Winchester*, father to *Charles* late Duke of *Bolton*; *Mildred* first married to Sir *Thomas Read*, Knt, and afterwards to Sir *Edmund Trafford* of *Trafford* in *Com. Lanc.* Knt. *Mary* to *Edward* Lord *Denny*; *Susan* who died unmarried; *Elizabeth* wedded first to Sir *William Hatton*, Knt. and afterwards to Sir *Edward Coke*, Knt. Lord Chief Justice of the King's-Bench; *Dorothy* to Sir *Giles Allington* of *Horsbeath* in *Com. Cantab.* Knt. and *Frances* to Sir *Nicholas Tufton* of *Hothfield* in *Com. Kanc.* Knt. afterwards Earl of *Thanet*.

His Lordship's third son Sir *Edward Cecil* before mentioned, was one of the most famous Generals of his time, having followed the
^a wars in the *Netherlands*, for the space of thirty five years with great applause, being first Colonel of foot, and at the battle of *Newport*, commanded the *English* horse. He was also Marshall, Lieutenant, and General of the forces, sent by King *James* and King *Charles* the first, against the *Spaniard*, and Imperialist, on 9th of *November*, 1 *Car.* 1. he was advanced to the dignity of Baron *Cecil* of *Putney*, ^b and the year after, on 25th of *July* 1626,

^a I 8. in
Offic. Arm.

^b Seager's
Baronage
general MS.

1626, 2 Car. 1, was created Viscount *Wimbleton* in *Com. Surr.* And after his return from the wars, was made one of his Majesty's Privy-Council, Lord-Lieutenant of *Surry*, and Governor of *Portsmouth*.

He married three wives, ^c first *Theodosia*, ^c *Ibid.* daughter of Sir *Andrew Noel* of *Dalby* in *Com. Leic.* Knt. by whom he had issue four daughters, *Dorothy* who died unmarried, *Albinia* wedded to Sir *Christopher Wray* of *Barlings* in *Com. Linc.* Knt. *Elizabeth* to *Francis* Lord *Willoughby* of *Parham*, and *Frances* to *James* son and heir of *William* Viscount *Say* and *Sele*. His second wife was *Diana* daughter to Sir *William Drury* of *Halstede* in *Com. Suff.* Knt. (one of the coheirs to Sir *Robert Drury* of *Halstede*, Knt.) by whom he had issue an only daughter *Anne*, who died in her infancy. And by his 3^d wife *Sophia*, daughter to Sir *Edward Zouch* of *Woking* in *Com. Surr.* Knt. he had issue an only son *Algernon* who likewise died in his infancy. And departing this life at *Wimbleton* 16th of *November*, An. 1638. (14 Car. 1.) was there buried. His Lady surviving to a very great age, dying in *November* 1691.

His eldest brother *William* Earl of *Exeter*, was married in his youth to *Elizabeth*, sole daughter and heir to *Edward* *Maners* Earl of *Rutland*, ^d who deceased on the 11th of *April* ^d Ex stem-
mate Famil:
de Mannors:

R

1591,

* E Regist.
Sepult. &c.
in Abb.
Westm.

1591, 33 *Eliz.* and was buried * on the 19th of *May* in *Westminster-Abbey*, leaving issue an only son *William*, who, in right of his mother, bore the title of Lord *Roos*. And taking to his second wife *Elizabeth*, sister and coheir to Sir *Robert Drury* of *Halstede in Com. Suff.* Knt. had only three daughters, *Elizabeth* wife of Sir *Thomas Howard* Knight of the *Bath*, (afterwards created Lord *Howard* of *Charlton*, Viscount *Andover*, and Earl of *Berkshire*) *Diana* first married to *Henry* Earl of *Oxford*, and secondly to *Thomas* Lord *Bruce*, Earl of *Elgin* in *Scotland*, afterwards created Earl of *Ailesbury*; and *Anne* to *Henry* Lord *Grey* of *Groby*, afterwards created Earl of *Stamford*.

His Lordship's only son *William* Lord *Roos* married ^f on *Febr.* the 12th 1616, *Elizabeth* daughter of Sir *Thomas Lake*, Knt. Principal Secretary of State; and was sent Embassador into *Spain* to the Emperor *Matthias*, ^g from whence he return'd in *March* 1617. After which, his title of Lord *Roos* being disputed by the Earl of *Rutland*, though the King had allowed it to him in his letters of credence, the arguments on each part were heard, before the Lords Commissioners, for executing the office of Earl Marshal, who adjudging that title to him, ^h he had the King's Declaration thereupon, dated 22 *Julii*, 14 *Jac.* But the year after travelling out of *England*,

^f Camden's
Annals of
K. James in
Hist. of Eng.
Vol. II. p.
645.
^g lb. p. 647.

^h Pat. 14
Jac. p. 13.

land into Italy, he departed this life without issue at *Naples*, ⁱ on *June 27, 1618*, ^{i Camden præd. p. 649.} being dispatched, as was suspected, by poison.

The beforemention'd *William* Earl of *Exeter* his father, was installed one of the Knights of the Garter at *Windſor*, ^k on the ^{k E. MS. Tabell. in Capell. St. Georg. Wind.} 5th of *October 1630*, being then of the Privy Council to King *Charles* the First. And departing this life, was buried on the 8th of *July 1640*, by his father, in the Chapel of *St. John Baptist* in *Westminster-Abbey*. And leaving no male issue, his nephew *David Cecil*, son and heir to Sir *Richard Cecil* his brother, succeeded him in his honours. Which Sir *Richard Cecil*, was seated at *Wakerley* in the county of *Northampton*; and in the 39th of *Queen Elizabeth*, ^l was elected to Parliament for the city of *Peterborough*; as also in the first Parliament called by King *James* the First. And waiting on his Majesty at *Woodstock* in *Oxfordshire*, ^m had the honour of ^{m Philpot's Cat. of Knights, corrected by Robt. Dale Esq; MS.} Knighthood conferred on him there, on the 28th of *August 1616*. The remaining part of King *James's* Reign, he served in Parliament for *Stamford*; and having ⁿ married *Elizabeth*, daughter of Sir *Anthony Cope* of *Hanwell*, in *Com. Oxon.* K^t. and Bar^t. had issue *David* his son and heir before mentioned.

Which *David*, succeeded his uncle *Willi-*

^b Additions
to the Ba-
ron. of Eng.
prod.

am Earl of *Exeter* in his honours, in the year 1640, but found the estate much diminisht by the fortunes ° of the three coheirs, and the dowers of two widows, his grandfather's, and his uncle's. But the former died soon after, and the latter deceased at her house in *St. John's Clerkenwell, London*, and was buried at the upper end of the south ile, under the north wall, in the Parish Church of *St. James Clerkenwell*, where is a black marble tomb erected with the following inscription ;

Here lyeth Elizabeth Countess Dowager of Exeter, Daughter of Sir William Drury of Hausted in the County of Suffolke Knight, and Coheir of Sir Robert Drury her Brother. She was married to William Cecill, Knight of the noble Order of the Garter, Lord Burghley, Earle of Exeter, Sonne to Thomas Lord Burghley Earle of Exeter, and Grandchild to the illustrious William Lord Burleigh, Lord Treasurer to Queene Elizabeth. By the said Earle she had three Daughters and Heirs, Elizabeth married to Thomas Howard Viscount Andover, Earle of Berkshire; Diana, married first to Henry Lord Vere, Earle of Oxenford, after his death she married Thomas Lord Bruce, Baron of Whorleton, Earle of Elgin; Ann, married to Henry Lord Gray of Grooby,
Earle

Earle of Stamford; she died at her house called St. Johns the 26th day of February 1658, her age was about 80 yeares, leaving behinde her an example for Piety, Wisdom, Bounty, Charity, and all Goodnes, fit for imitation of all Ladies of Honor and Virtue.

The said *David* Earl of *Exeter* married *Elizabeth* daughter to *John* Earl of *Bridgewater*, by whom he had six sons and three daughters; *Thomas* the youngest of the sons ^{p Wright's Rutland-shire, p. 125.} was buried at *Tinwell* in *Rutlandshire* the 28th of *May* 1641, and *Elizabeth* one of the daughters was buried there 13 Nov. 1638. *Anne*, another daughter, died young; and *Frances* was married to Sir *Anthony Ashley Cooper*, afterwards Earl of *Shaftsbury*. His sons that survived him were, *John* Earl of *Exeter*, *William*, and *David*. And his Lordship departing this life ^{q Additions to Baronage.} at *London* on the 18th of *April* 1643, was buried in the Church of *St. Martin Stamford*, near to *William* Lord *Burghley* his great grandfather.

Which *John* Earl of *Exeter*, by the Lady *Frances* his first wife, daughter to *John* Earl of *Rutland*, had issue *John* Earl of *Exeter*, *David* who died young, as also one daughter *Frances*, married to *John* Lord Viscount *Scudamore* in the Realm of *Ireland*; and deceasing in *June* 1694, left issue *James* Lord Viscount

r Ibid.

count *Scudamore*, whose daughter and heir *Frances* is married to the present Duke of *Beaufort*. The said *John* Earl of *Exeter* married to his second wife the Lady *Mary*, daughter to *Mildmay Fane* Earl of *Westmorland*,^r widow of Sir *Brian Palmes* of *Astwell* in *Com. Rutland* K^t. but by her had no issue. And departing this life at *Burghley-house* near *Stamford* in *February* 1677, was buried in *St. Martin's Church* aforefaid.

To whom succeeded in his honour *John* Lord *Burghley* his only surviving son, who married *Anne* only daughter of *William* Earl of *Devonshire*, and sister of *William* Duke of *Devonshire*, widow of *Charles* Lord *Rich*, son and heir of *Charles* Earl of *Warwick*, by whom he had issue *John* his son and heir, *William Cecil* of *Snape* in the county of *York* Esq; *Charles*, and *Edward* who was in the siege of *Barcelona* in the Reign of *Queen Anne*, and died there after raising the siege; also four daughters, *Christian*, *Anne*, and *Frances*, who died young; and *Elizabeth* married to *Charles Boyle* Earl of *Orrery* in *Ireland*, and Baron of *Marstown* in *England*.

This noble Earl had a learned education, and an excellent genius, for the improvement whereof he travelled twice to *Rome*, and in the most polite parts of *Europe*, whereby no person was better adapted to adorn the Court,

or

or fitter for the administration of publick affairs : But chusing a retired life, he lived for the most part in the countrey, in great honour and reputation; affable and pleasing to his friends, bountiful to the poor, and a constant asserter of the Religion and Liberties of his Countrey. His Lady was a faithful companion in his travels, and was present when he died, in his last return from *Rome*, in the ville of *Iffy* near *Paris*. She survived him three years, and was buried by him, under a very magnificent and elegant monument, brought among other exquisite works from *Rome*, and erected in the Church of *St. Martins Stamford*, whereon is this Inscription, which further shews how greatly they excell'd in whatever was commendable.

H. S. E.

Johannes Cecil, Baro de Burleigh, Exoniæ Comes, magni Burleii Adnepos haudquaquam degenerare; Egregiam enim indolem optimis Moribus, optimis Artibus excoluit. Humanioribus literis bene instructus peregre plus vice simplici profectus est; & ab excultis Europæ Regionibus, multam Antiquitatum, Linguarum, necnon & rerum Civilium scientiam reportavit. Cum nemo fortè meliùs vel Aulam ornare, vel curare Res publicas posset, maluit tamen Otium & Secessum.
Itaque

Itaque Ruri suo vixit, eleganter, sumptuosè, splendide, liberalibus studiis oblectatus; Amicis comis & jucundus, Egenis largus, Legum & Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ fortis semper propugnator. Suarum Virtutum & Peregrinationum, imo ferè & Scientiarum sociam habuit uxorem, Annam ex prænobili domo de Cavendish, Gulielmi, Comitis Devoniae filiam, Corporis forma, & Animi ingenio, & omnibus quæ fæminam decere possent, dotibus insignem: E qua quinque Liberos suscepit: Fælix conjuge, Fælix & prole. Sed inter omnia vitam quæ faciunt beatiorrem, Mortalitatis haud immemor, dum apud Italos præcipua Artis Opera curiosus lustrabat, hoc Monumentum illic, ubi exquisitissimè fieri potuit, sibi & Charissimæ Lecti sui & Itinerum & Curarum omnium Conforti

F. F.

Obiit ille

Aug. 29, 1700.

Obiit illa

Jun. 18. 1703.

His eldest son and heir, *John* Earl of *Exeter*, married two wives, first in *February* 1696, *Annabella*, daughter of *John Bennet* Lord *Osulston*, by whom he had no issue, dying in *August* 1698. And secondly, *Elizabeth* eldest daughter, and one of the coheirs of Sir *John Brownlow* of *Belton* in the County of *Lincoln*

Lincoln Bart. she was married in *Sept.* 1699. and died (in the 43^d year of her age) on the 28th of *November* 1723, by whom his Lordship had issue five sons, *John* Lord *Burghley*, *Brownlow* the present Earl of *Exeter*, *William*, *Francis*, and *Charles* who dyed unmarried. As also a daughter, Lady *Elizabeth* married to *William Aislaby* Esq; son and heir of *John Aislaby* of *Studeley* in the County of *York* Esq; Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of the Privy Council to his late Majesty. And departing this life on the 21st of *December* 1721, was buried with his ancestors at *Stamford*, and was succeeded by *John* his eldest son and heir.

Which *John* Earl of *Exeter* dying unmarried on the 9th of *April* 1722, was succeeded by his brother and heir *Brownlow* now Earl of *Exeter*, then Member of Parliament for *Stamford*. His Lordship in the year 1724, married *Hannab-Sophia*, daughter of *Thomas Chambers* of the Town of *Derby*; Esq; and Merchant of the City of *London*, by whom he hath issue two sons and two daughters, the right honorable *Brownlow* Lord *Burghley*, Lady *Margaret-Sophia Cecil*, the honorable *Thomas-Chambers Cecil*, and Lady *Elizabeth Cecil*.

James Buchanan was born in 1791 in Pennsylvania and died in 1868. He was a prominent statesman and served as the 15th President of the United States from 1857 to 1861. Buchanan was a member of the Whig Party and was known for his diplomatic skills. He was married to Anne Buchanan in 1819 and they had several children. Buchanan's presidency was marked by the secession of Southern states and the beginning of the American Civil War.

